

## Casting Vision for School Ministry

### Defining Vision

*“Vision is what you want to create of yourself and the world around you.” (Peter Senge)*

*“Vision is what you want to be, do, feel, think, own, associate with and impact by some date in the future.” (Dr. Linda Phillips-Jones)*

*“Vision is a clear mental picture of a preferable future imparted by God to His chosen servants based upon an accurate understanding of God, self and circumstances.” (George Barna: The Power of Vision)*

### The Importance of Vision

*If you don't identify your vision, others will plan and direct your life for you!*

*Know your direction...or someone else will set your destination!*

*The saddest thing in the world is people who can see but have no vision. (Helen Keller)*

### The Benefits of Vision:

1. Direction to life
2. Discipline to life
3. Dynamic to life

### Examples of Vision

ADAM AND EVE: To be fruitful, multiply and have dominion over the earth

MOSES: To lead Hebrews out of Egypt, teach them the law, guide them to Canaan

EZRA: To study and observe the Law of the Lord, and teach it to people

JOHN THE BAPTIST: To prepare the way for the Messiah

JESUS: To seek and save the lost

JESUS TO HIS DISCIPLES: As the Father sent me, I send you.

DISCIPLES: To preach, teach, heal the sick: to make disciples of all people

PAUL: To develop people spiritually

BILL GATES: To put a computer on every desk in every home

MARTIN LUTHER KING: To see equality and racial harmony existing among all people

## Developing a Purpose Statement

### Definition:

A purpose statement is a clear, concise statement of why the youth group exists. This statement should be spoken about, prayed about, printed, pictured and ingrained in the consciousness of the leaders and members.

### A Purpose Statement Should:

- (1) Describe the long-range reasons why your youth group should exist.
- (2) Answer the basic questions as to why you have various activities.
- (3) Be memorised by the leaders, and used regularly as a tool by which to realign and rededicate themselves, and to evaluate the youth group program.
- (4) Deal with the vertical relationship between your group and God, and the horizontal relationships between group members.
- (5) Strive for quality and honesty: it can always be revised.
- (6) Be written in simple, direct sentences.

### Writing a Purpose Statement:

#### **Step 1:**

Underline key words/phrases from these Scriptures that describe God's purpose for your youth ministry.

#### Matthew 28:18-20

Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age."

#### Matthew 22:37-38

Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.'

#### Ephesians 4:11-14

It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the

faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

2 Timothy 2:2

And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others.

**Step 2:**

Discuss your key words as a group and decide on 3-5 key words/phrases that sum up what God's Word lays out as the purpose (or key priorities) for your youth ministry.

**Our Key Phrases...**

**Step 3:**

Working from your key words, write a brief statement summarising the purpose for which your youth ministry exists.

**The purpose of our youth ministry is to...**

**Step 4:**

Write it in simple, direct sentences. Use it to evaluate why you have various activities.

Our revised, concise statement of purpose is:

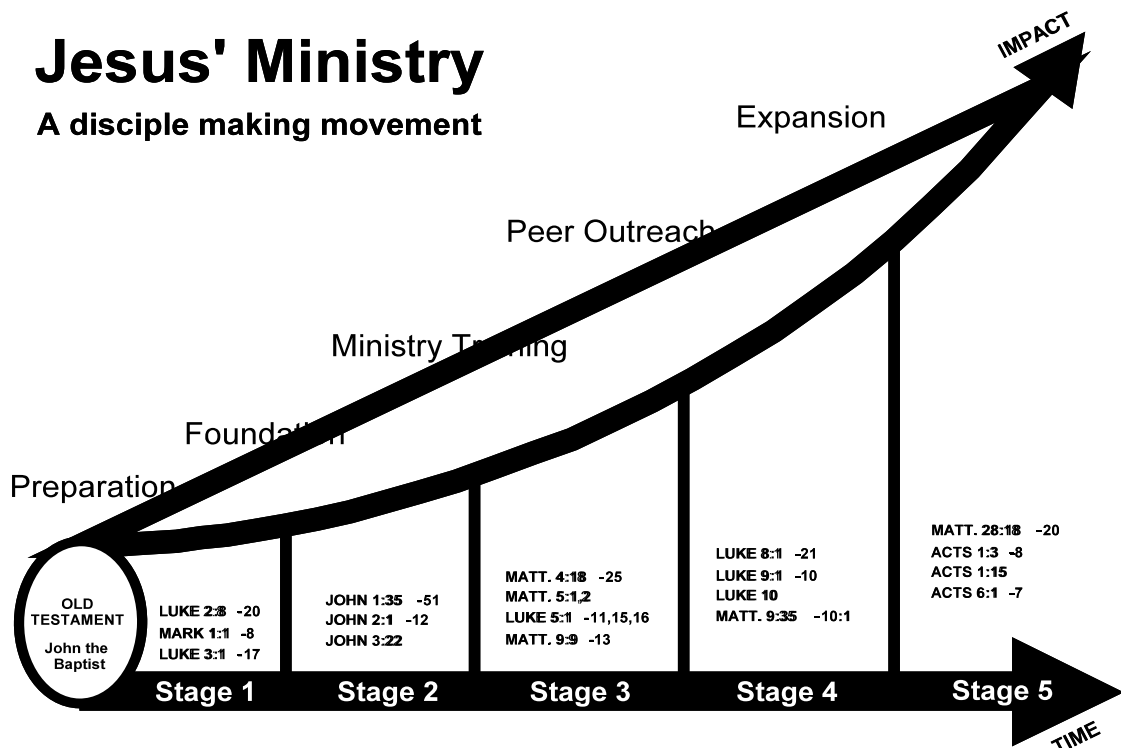
**Sample Purpose Statement:**

*"Through the power of God, we strive to reach, teach, train and send young people to fulfil their destiny in Christ."*

B. Developing a Ministry Plan

**(1) The Process of Ministry Development**

In Jesus' ministry we discover a process of ministry development that involves a five-stage process – the following chart overviews the whole process:



Each stage has a unique priority of focus as follows:

(a) Preparation: Preparation of God's person and presentation of God's plan. Clarifying and communicating the purpose and ministry strategy.

(b) Foundation: Building a foundation for future growth. Laying a foundation in people's lives. Gathering contacts through relationships.

(c) Ministry Training: Drawing apart those "wanting more" into a ministry team. Training and equipping them to share the work of the ministry.

(d) Peer Outreach: Mobilising the ministry team for specific, targeted evangelism amongst their peers. Expanding contacts and influence through others. Peer to peer group outreach.

(e) Expansion: Multiplying the 'Great Commission' movement by further impacting the relational networks and sphere's of influence of the youth involved in the ministry.

