

VISION/NARRATIVE (Part One)

Introduction: We use the term 'Narrative' when we speak of vision. God reveals His plan for His people in the context of story. A vision narrative defines who we are. We need to learn to tell our story from the general to the specific and from the specific to the general. We must learn to be story-tellers. Vision always begins with God and His story. The book of Nehemiah is a great example for the church planter.

Definition: "Our narrative is a clear and challenging picture of the future as its leadership believes it can and should be."

Andy Stanley says: "The clearer the vision, the fewer the options, the easier the decision."

The Crafting of the Vision

Start with the problem. Universal sin manifests itself in specific, particular ways in our neighborhoods. (We tend to want to start with the gospel rather than with the problem.)

Questions to ask ourselves as we attempt to discover what the problem in our specific context is:

- What is the problem that our vision is designed to solve? (This question requires us to think in new ways.) This answers the question "What do the people in this community need most?"
- What would go undone in this community if we don't do it?
- What would the community be missing if the vision is not accomplished?

Key Points in Developing Our Narrative

- Defining the problem helps us to be smarter in how we work toward our goals.
- Work inside our context and help our people ask the right questions.
- We need to ask the questions that the community is asking.
- Start with the problem and express the gravity and weight of the issue to the people around us in the context (of our narrative).

Where do we begin in 'Communicating the Problem'?

As Jesus would do, we must find contextually appropriate ways to identify the problem, and then lead them to a life-giving, satisfying solution in the gospel.

Additional Notes/Homework: