**Church Check-up**

#6 Apply Our Vision/Mission

*Quotations taken from Thom Rainer’s books “Autopsy of a Deceased Church” and “Breakout Churches” for discussion.*

**Homework from Lesson #5: Discover Our Vision/Mission**

Spend some time trying to craft what the new mission statement of St. John’s should be. Try to keep it to one sentence which states our congregation’s purpose in a clear and compelling way. (Look back at pages 2-3 for help.) Feel free to come up with several options.

E.G. Providing excellent education to God’s children for this life and the next.

Also give some thought to how you would complete the following statement: In order for our new mission to be successful I think we need to…

**St. John’s Vision and Mission Statements**

Vision – What will the world look like around us if/when we achieve our mission?

Disciples of all nations following the Triune God.

Mission – What are we doing right now to accomplish our vision?

 *Educating with excellence for life and eternity*.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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**Quotes for Discussion**

*****“The breakout churches focused on doing a few things and doing those few things well. They did not attempt to carry out all of the passions of the leadership. Nor did they attempt to implement all of the passions and desires of the congregation. And they certainly did not try to meet all of the needs of the communities where they served. But in those cases where all three areas intersected, the Vision Intersection Profile, the churches were laser-focused in doing these relatively few ministries well.” (Breakout Churches p. 124)*

*“A culture of excellence will never become a reality until a church takes the often painful step of ‘not doing’. One of the key reasons breakout churches have a culture of excellence is because they do a few things well and are ‘not doing” the rest.” (Breakout Churches p. 143)*

*“The move to do a few things with excellence meant that everything the church did had to be evaluated ruthlessly. ‘Sacred cows’ were handled with care, but the church had to move forward.” (Breakout Churches p. 136)*

*“When leaders in a church are passionately clear about their vision, two inevitable results transpire. First, some will not be attracted to such a vision and will not join the congregation. If they are members, they will probably leave to find a church that is a better fit for their gifts and passions. Second, others will be attracted to the church because it reflects at least an aspect of their gifts and passions. The result is a congregation that is very unified in its vision and ministries.” (Breakout Churches p. 119)*

1. Read through the above quotes. Then discuss the following questions with the people around you.
	1. What are some practical applications we should keep in mind as we start applying our mission at St. John’s?

*We can’t do everything well and shouldn’t try / it’s hard to let programs or events go, but we need to / quality over quantity / stick to our mission / some people won’t like it*

* 1. What are some reasons it’s always easier to add new ministries at a church than it is to take old ministries away?

*Everyone gets excited for new stuff when it’s introduced (silver bullet) / People get attached to ministries (that’s my baby!) / we don’t like to admit failure*

1. “But pastor, if we make those changes, some of our members are going to be very upset. They might even leave the congregation!” What are some things we need to keep in mind when we hear comments like this one?

*Are the “some members” you? / the church’s mission is more important than any one person’s opinion or even a group of members’ opinions / stay focused on growing God’s kingdom, not pleasing people / outreach is our priority, not inreach*

**Galatians 2:1, 6-10**

*1 Then after fourteen years, I went up again to Jerusalem, this time with Barnabas. I took Titus along also.*

*6 As for those who were held in high esteem—whatever they were makes no difference to me; God does not show favoritism—they added nothing to my message. 7 On the contrary, they recognized that I had been entrusted with the task of preaching the gospel to the uncircumcised, just as Peter had been to the circumcised. 8 For God, who was at work in Peter as an apostle to the circumcised, was also at work in me as an apostle to the Gentiles. 9 James, Cephas and John, those esteemed as pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me. They agreed that we should go to the Gentiles, and they to the circumcised. 10 All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I had been eager to do all along.*

1. What are some truths these verses show about the different missions of believers?

*They’re all from God, no mission is better than any other / different focuses are okay, even good / there will be some overlap between missions*

**Apply Our Mission**

1. Look through the list of Groups/Ministries/Events at St. John’s. Add any groups, ministries, and events that are missing and then complete the following activities with the people around you.
	1. **Circle** the 15 Groups, 7 Ministries, and 15 Events you feel best support our current mission of using our school and preschool for outreach. (Recognizing that the uncircled ones aren’t sinful, and aren’t necessarily going to be discontinued.)
	2. Then look over the uncircled Groups, Ministries, and Events. **Draw a line** through any of them you feel we should discontinue because they do not support our current mission. **Draw a star** by any that might be modified to better support one or more of the circled Groups, Ministries, or Events.

E.G. Maybe instead of getting rid of a certain meal altogether, we should move the meal to a different date so more school families can be involved.

* 1. Now **brainstorm** ways to improve the circled and starred Groups, Ministries, and Events. Or brainstorm new Groups, Ministries, and Events that should be started. Remember to keep them focused on our mission of using the school and preschool for outreach.

**Hebrews 12:1-3**

*1 Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

1. What are some reminders these verses give about focus?

*Throw off everything that hinders our mission / we need to stay focused on Jesus / Jesus was focused on the long-term (we should be too) / remember Jesus when we’re discouraged (persevere, it’s going to be hard)*



**Homework**

Complete the following statement: When we talk about fitting all of St. John’s ministries under one mission I feel…

*Relieved that we’re clearing away some of the clutter and busyness / excited to dive into ministry with greater outreach focus / nervous about how others will react / afraid that my favorite areas of ministry might be taken away*

Also, try to talk about this study with at least one member of St. John’s who wasn’t here today. Explain what we’re trying to do with our one, clear mission of using our school and preschool for outreach and see what they think. Direct any concerns to Pastor Birsching.