**Church Check-up**

#7 Minister with Excellence

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

**Homework from Lesson #6: Apply Our Vision/Mission**

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

**Colossians 3:23-24**

*23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, 24 since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*

**Ecclesiastes 9:10**

*10 Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the realm of the dead, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.*

**Romans 10:17**

*17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word about Christ.*

**Isaiah 55:8-11**

*8 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. 9 “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. 10 As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, 11*

*so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”*

1. What are some reminders these passages give us about the work we do as a church?

*“whatever you do” God doesn’t tell us exactly how to do ministry / go all in (our time is limited and we’re working for God) / focus on the gospel / God’s plans trump our plans (things might not go how we expect)*

**Quotes for Discussion**

*“Breakout churches learned that they could not do everything with excellence. One of the major changes the thirteen churches made in their transition to greatness was their near fanatical focus on those few areas where they could excel.” (Breakout Churches p. 135)*

*“To the contrary, breakout churches were extremely careful in their evaluations of new opportunities. They typically asked two questions: Does it fit our vision? Can we take on this new responsibility and do it with excellence?” (Breakout Churches p. 137)*

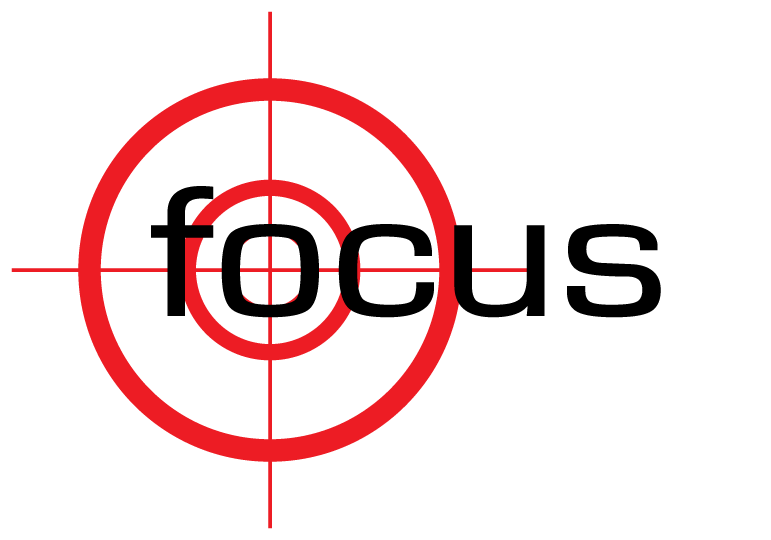
*“On the one hand, these quality workers relished the freedom given to them to carry out their work. They were clear that any attempts to micromanage them would be met with stiff resistance. On the other hand, they were equally clear that they cherished the high-expectation environment of their churches. They wanted freedom, but they wanted clear boundaries of high expectations.” (Breakout Churches p. 138)*

*“A consistent observation noted by the research team was the obvious joy present in both the staff and the laity of the breakout churches. Indeed, one of the researchers commented, ‘These people just seem to have fun.’” (Breakout Churches p. 107)*

1. What are some practical things we should keep in mind at St. John’s to help us minister with excellence?

*Quality over quantity / focus on doing a few things very well / don’t embrace every new idea / don’t micromanage (give freedom) / hold ourselves to high expectations (lovingly) / have fun!*

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**St. John’s Vision and Mission Statements (unofficial)**

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?

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

**Apply Our Mission (continued)**

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. (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.

**Homework**

Complete the following statement with at least three answers: When a church is truly ministering with excellence, I would expect it to…

*Be a fun place to be / be making a noticeable difference in the community / be teaching and living the gospel*