

Sharing a Vision: 1-Sentence, 1-Page, 1-Document

Having examined the biblical and theological foundations for children and the Kingdom of God, and looked at the history and expectations of your congregation, draft and refine a vision statement. Synthesize the information collected in Modules 1-5 to guide your conversations, and begin to draft three formats:

1-Sentence: A one-sentence vision statement allows you to quickly sum-up the main goals and values of your ministry. You may choose to start with your congregation's mission statement and add or tweak it. You may also need to have this vision statement approved by the senior congregational leadership. This statement does not need to be revisited every year.

1-Page: A one-page vision statement allows for nuances to the vision as applied to various parts of congregational life (e.g. corporate worship, education hour, small groups, etc.) and/or different age groups. This is a helpful tool for new or prospective church members, other ministry leaders, or families considering how to get involved. This also helps you as a team see how the various ministry areas work together to serve the concise vision/mission. This may need to be edited slightly each year to reflect the church.

1-Document: Finally, a single document with more comprehensive vision and mission statements helps offer specific details and examines various ministry areas for serving the ultimate vision. Consider including portions of your Scripture study, congregational history, and Frankena Model philosophy of ministry pages. This will be a more dynamic document that can be revisited and edited each year.

Helpful Resources and Tips:

[“Start with why- how great leaders inspire action”](#) by Simon Sinek on TEDxPugetSound

Simon Sinek explains how knowing the “why” behind an organization or company can provide both a clear sense of direction and incredible flexibility for responding to change. Watch this video (available on YouTube) if you find yourself veering into a statement that focuses on “how” rather than “why”.

Your church or denomination's Vision Statement

The children's ministry at your church is part of your larger church family. Can you adopt or adapt your church's statement for children's ministries?

Collaborate and then Isolate:

Begin your vision statement conversation with a large dry-erase or poster board for capturing everyone's ideas. In the brainstorming phase, write down all words and phrases suggested by the group. Before you go home, try to narrow down the list to a few key thoughts or ideas. Have your children's ministries leader (perhaps with the help of a volunteer, if the children's ministry leader doesn't feel confident with words!) work on it alone and re-present it to the group.