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God Dreams: 12 Vision Templates For Finding And Focusing Your Church's Future



Synopsis

Is your team excited about the next big dream for your church? You are a visionary leader and your church probably has a vision statement. Yet most churches are stuck in a trap of generic communication without a truly visionary plan. Just like a visionary restaurant needs a more specific focus than "serving food," a visionary church needs something more than biblical generalizations like "loving God, loving people" or "making disciples and serving the world." When a team doesn't share an understanding of God's next big dream, leadership grows tired, overworked by an "all things to all people" ministry approach. Too often there's no unified picture of what success looks like. People can feel uninspired and your church's programming can seem more optional than ever. Ministry without clarity is insanity. Are you ready for a better way? In this groundbreaking work, based on Will Mancini's 15 years and over 10,000 hours of church team facilitation, *God Dreams* reveals a simple and powerful planning method that will bring energy and focus to your church like never before. First, *God Dreams* shows how to reclaim the role of long-range vision today by providing 12 vision templates, each with biblical, historical and contemporary illustrations. These vision starters will dramatically accelerate your team's ability to find complete agreement regarding your church's future. Second, *God Dreams* explains how to overcome the fruitless planning efforts that many church teams experience. With a tool called the Horizon Storyline, leaders can connect short-term action steps with the long-range dream, while leveraging the power of storytelling to make the plan stick. This tool will galvanize a diverse team of ministry leaders and volunteers with unprecedented enthusiasm. Imagine leading with a refreshed sense of freedom and confidence, with a totally new way to inspire your church. Imagine the ability to harness the energy and resources of your people towards a specific dream of gospel impact, in your church and in your lifetime. *God Dreams* is your passport to leading into a better future.

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Customer Reviews

It has been said that a person becomes an expert after doing something for ten thousand hours. "God Dreams" is the fruit of Will Mancini's ten thousand hours of consulting among a diverse array of evangelical churches in North America. "God Dreams" forms a counterpoint to Mancini's earlier work, "Church Unique: How Missional Leaders Cast Vision, Capture Culture, and Create Movement" (www.churchunique.com). "Church Unique" (whose content is summarized in an appendix of "God Dreams") introduced Mancini's process for discerning the answers to the "five irreducible questions" of an organization's "Vision Frame" which describe what makes one's church different from ten thousand others. A church's answers to the first four questions—its mission, values, strategy, and measures—are permanent or nearly so. But the fifth question—"Where are we going?", answered with "Vision Proper"—changes with time. "God Dreams" is a vast expansion on how to discern Vision Proper and how to lead according to it. Part One of "God Dreams" ("Restart the Conversation") outlines why visions and dreams—including in an organizational sense—are essential for the church, for the kingdom of God, and even simply for being human. Chapter 3, "Obsessing with Now," contains an astoundingly provocative and inspiring list of "twelve compelling reasons to think long." In Part Two ("Discover Visionary Planning"), Mancini introduces the tool that is the core of the book, the "Horizon Storyline." The Horizon Storyline is the picture in the middle of the Vision Frame.

While God Dreams is great for Every Influencer in the church, I'll tailor this encouragement for the Senior Pastor: Leading a church, being the guy at the tip of the spear, it's not for the faint of heart. I congratulate you on following Jesus thus far! Your job requires a lot from you. The urgent needs are pressing, relentless. I know you have established rhythms that bring you joy in ministry and others that foster productivity. I AM HERE TO URGE YOU TO MAKE A RHYTHM FOR VISIONARY PLANNING, and God Dreams is your best resource to go next on that journey. My friend Will Mancini is handing you the field-proven fruit of his well over 10,000 hours of leading church leaders to amplify their efforts toward this rewarding end. You will not find a more insightful guide to help you

navigate from the meandering pools of the generic to the Flowing Spring of Visionary Clarity. I've had your job, as a Church Planter, and I've worked for you, as a college pastor at a large church. I know the pressure you are under to have all the answers. Breathe in the provision that our Heavenly Father has for you in God Dreams. I am hereby giving you permission to release sole custody of preparing all the Vision stuff on your own! Maybe Vision is your best thing, and you coach others in your circles on vision. Sweet! Buy 5 copies, because God Dreams will soon be your go-to resource for helping your friends! If Leading or Serving or Teaching is your best strength, then God Dreams will help you and your team build on what you have to discover the narrative God is doing with your church and how to draw that out so your entire church catches on. What will they catch on to? The Bigger Narrative of God's Vision for your church, a compelling picture of your future.

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