

Seven Practices of Effective Ministry

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SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

Practice #1 – Clarify the Win: Define what is important at every level of the organization.

- *As long as the win is unclear, you force your team to guess at what a win looks like.*
 - *If the win is unclear, you may force those in leadership roles to define winning in their own terms.*
 - *When you clarify the win you help your team stay on the same page.*
 - *When you clarify the win you can manage your resources effectively.*
1. *Sum up the win in a simple phrase*
 2. *Keep the win as specific as possible*
 3. *Restate the win frequently and creatively*
 4. *Meet to clarify the win at every level*

Practice #2 – Think Steps, not Programs: Before you start anything, make sure it takes you where you need to go.

1. *Every step should be easy*
2. *Every step has to be obvious*
3. *Every step must be strategic*

Practice #3 – Narrow the Focus: Do fewer things in order to make a greater impact.

- *You have to do less if you want to grow more.*
- *Some churches have bought into a ministry “menu” philosophy.*
- *Churches feel constant pressure to provide programs on the basis of needs.*
- *Individuals have been allowed to build their identity around a program, not a mission.*
- *Church leaders fear the fallout of eliminating certain programs.*
- *Resist complexity and pursue simplicity.*
- *Choose what potentially works best over what is presently working.*
- *The more you focus the environment, the greater the relevance, the better the connection, the higher the quality, and the stronger the impact.*

Practice #4 – Teach Less for More: Say only what you need to say to the people who need to hear it.

Teach with the end in mind.

1. *Decide what you are going to say*
2. *Decide to say one thing at a time*
3. *Decide how you are going to say it*
4. *Say it over and over again*

Practice #5 – Listen to Outsiders: Focus on who you’re trying to reach, not who you’re trying to keep.

Practice #6 – Replace Yourself: Learn to hand off what you do.

Prepare someone to do what you do and strategically replace yourself.

1. *Break it down*
2. *Hand it off*
3. *Let it go*

Practice #7 – Work On It: Take time to evaluate your work, and to celebrate your wins.