

Five Areas Leaders Must Be Repetitive



timpriceblog.com

One of the things Jesus did was patiently teach his followers over and over.

Jesus had 30 years of preparation in His life and then three years of ministry. It was during those three years that He helped His disciples catch the vision of His life and His message.

Transformation doesn't just happen overnight – it takes time.

Here are some of the many verses that help us see how often Jesus taught them:

Jesus spoke to the people *once more* and said, “I am the light of the world. If you follow me, you won't have to walk in darkness, because you will have the light that leads to life.” John 8:12

Taking the twelve disciples aside, Jesus *once more* began to describe everything that was about to happen to him. Mark 10:32
Once more Jesus said to them, “I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come.” John 8:21

Great leaders must lovingly help their people grasp the vision, the message and the purpose of their work together.

For pastors, youth pastors, worship leaders, and children's ministry leaders, this can't be just a once a year thing – you can't just have one big meeting in January and list everything you want them to know. It's ongoing. It's consistent. It's intentional.
Leaders must be repetitive. Here are five areas:

Appreciation

Be sure you let people know how much you appreciate them. Thank them. Thanking people will help build a culture of generosity and momentum. Do this through written notes, verbal praise and second hand compliments. Appreciate for, and thank you to, should be repeated often!

Vision

Share the vision of your ministry as often as possible. Keep repeating where you're heading and how you're trying to get there. Don't let the vision run dry. Vision, as it's been noted, leaks. Repetition is key to keeping people motivated.

Purpose

Repeat the purpose of the meeting, the roles, the jobs, the tasks. Why are we doing what we are doing? What is our purpose in being here, during this unique time in history, as an organization?

Basics

Constantly help your team, your leaders and your people do the foundational things well. What are the three or four things for which we are known? Be sure to excel in those areas. Some basics include getting back to people when they reach out to you, connecting with those around you, executing well, responding to requests, good work ethic, initiative, etc.

Values

Be sure your folks grow in understanding of the values in your church. What are the things you hold in high esteem. What are you proud of? How would you like your congregation or leadership teams to behave? Celebrate those things, teach them and uphold them through spoken word, written word, and action.

Church attendance patterns are changing. If a family makes it to church a couple times per month, it's good. This may require children's ministry leaders to become a little more strategic. It makes building relationships and building lessons each week more difficult.

To complicate it, there are three levels of attendance patterns: those children who are there every Sunday, those who are regulars, but not every week and those who are marginally connected and show up sporadically.

We always want to minister to those who respond. We also want to develop a ministry to children that helps create an atmosphere where kids bring their parents! Not that we have to provide flashy entertainment, but we need to be real, offer hope in Jesus, and create ways for children to experience the love of Christ in tangible ways.

The ideas below are geared toward helping include families at all levels of connection:



Document The Progress

It's good to have a place where you document what you have been learning and plan to learn. This can be as simple as a sheet hanging in the children's ministry area, a facebook post, a newsletter or a link to the information on your website. This helps you plan and prepare and helps families sense the importance and urgency of ministry each week.

Weekly Communication

Stay in weekly communication with the families in your ministry. If some of the kids in your group attend only every other Sunday because of a split home, then it's best to communicate with both parents – every week. If the child is brought by a grandparent or a friend, keep them in the loop too. Use different formats to make announcements about special events, schedules changes, etc. several weeks ahead of time and in a variety of formats: Facebook, Church Newsletter, Email Newsletters, etc.

Mention Next Sunday

Kids will get families to show up if they want to be there. Incentives work well with kids! Encourage your children through special plans and surprises next Sunday. Encourage attendance by setting goals, giving a party or awarding prizes for those who have been there every week for a month or semester! Before leaving for the day, always say something about next Sunday! Some suggestions might be: 1) See you next Sunday! 2) Don't forget the party next Sunday! 3) Whoever comes with a memorized Bible verse gets a special prize next Sunday!

Know Your Goal

Define what your primary goal is each week – to help kids get a grasp of Scripture, to learn more about Jesus and to know Him. Knowing your goal will help keep things during your week moving forward. Another aspect to knowing your goal is how many students you want to have involved? Just setting this goal in mind and sharing it with your leaders and the kids will help people get excited. Additionally, a short term metric like this will help you focus your time during the week on contacting inactive families, checking in with someone who was sick, etc.

Celebrate Those Who Are There

Don't try to keep catching up with kids who missed, just jump into your plan for the day. Don't diminish plans because it's a smaller group than usual. Don't look at a small number of kids and say something like, "Where is everyone today?" These kids are here, present, and ready. Celebrate those who are there, minister to those who respond and make it a great day!

Provide Helpful Resources

Provide resources for your families through Facebook links, article posts or a church blog. Families deal with lots of stuff these days. If we can find ways to walk along side families through helpful information to encourage them, it's a great way to stay connected. This kind of information will also help keep the door open for communication between you and families connected to your church.

Pray For Your Children And Families

Develop a prayer team for the children in your church. Life isn't easy these days. One of the best things we can do is pray for the kids and families in our church and community. Do you have a prayer plan? When do you pray for the children and families in your church? I would love for you to be able to say the day and time you pray each week. Mark it down on your calendar. And then get people to join you in praying.