

Vision Intention and Means

Objective for the Meeting: To teach students Vision, Intention, and Means, an idea derived from Dallas Willard. It teaches how to walk a student through the whole part of the discipleship process of a certain topic. There must be vision, intention, and means. This should leave the leader feeling more equipped for his/her mentoring meetings. The goal is NOT to make them feel like they're not doing enough, but instead to leave them feeling like they are being better equipped.

Recently we had a meeting at our house where someone asked me—how do you get people to pray? Wow that is a great question.

Immediately I started a process in my mind of how I could explain to her of what it could look like to motivate, encourage someone to value prayer and then teach someone how to pray.

As I was explaining to her the three aspects of what it takes to see people grow and hopefully be a person of prayer, I thought this would be a really good leader's meeting. Some of my guys have heard me talk about this, but I thought it could be good to help all of us, to give us a grid in a one-on-one when something comes up that you want to help them grow in, or you know that a person has a specific area that they need to grow in. How do you approach it. Well it comes down to three things that are all necessary ingredients.

1. Vision: The need to have a vision cast for them in the particular area you are talking about. You need to encourage them in what it could look like if they allowed the Kingdom of God to define this area of their life. What it could look like to become Christ like in this area of their life. 2 Peter 1:3 "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of Him." It is possible through the Holy Spirit. But what does it look like.
 - a. Why is it important?
 - b. What is the value of this area?
 - c. What could it look like to live it out.
 - d. Vision deals starts with right doctrine—**what do they need to believe in this area to catch the vision.**
 - e. Why is God's vision for this more beautiful than the world's vision.
 - f. Vision deals with thinking right about something. (Orthodoxy—right doctrine)
2. Intention: We must intend to grow. Imagine someone having a crush on a young lady in the fellowship and walking around day after day wondering if they are going to get married to her. They have to get a vision, and then intend to pursue her. In our growth in areas of our lives, we have to intend to. I think of Jesus coming up to the blind man at the pool and asking "Do you want to get well?" That is an important question and until we answer this with depth of conviction, "yes" we will not get well. Then Jesus said get up take up your mat and walk. God did it, but this man had to come to the point of intention and then attempt to stand up.
 - a. So we must think through if the person or if we have really decided to do the things it takes to see the vision fulfilled.

- b. We must help bring them to that point, to the best our ability.
 - c. Typically as the vision starts to rise, then the ability to come to a point of intention starts to increase. As we begin to think rightly, then we will feel rightly....which will bring us to intention. (Orthodoxy—right doctrine, will lead us to orthopathos—right passions)
 - d. This is why in 2 Peter 1:5 it says “for this reason” since you have everything you need for life and godliness, since you participate in the divine nature through the Holy Spirit, “make every effort to add to your faith goodness...”
 - i. It is saying you must come to a point of intention in your walk with God. This isn't us mustering up the will power, but us being willing to partner with the Holy Spirit. Gordon Smith likens it to a dance with the Holy Spirit. He leads and we follow, but he doesn't just drag us around the dance floor.
3. Means: We must give them practical helps that can help them live it out. Tools to use or coaching them through the implementation of a plan. We must not just motivate them and bring them to a point of intention but then we must equip them to the best of our ability to walk it out. (as we have Orthodoxy—right doctrine or thought, then right passions, we can now give them the means to lead them towards orthopraxis—right practice)

What we tend to do if we don't teach all of these areas:

1. Wonder why they don't have intention to do it—have we ever cast a vision. Perhaps we can talk about what the specific area has meant to us when we have lived it out. Cast a vision from your own personal life or from someone you have witnessed it with.
2. We cast vision about something and bring them to a point of intention but never give them the means to walk it out.
3. We give them the means to do it but we never talk about the importance of it so they don't have the vision to implement the means. So we sit down and talk about how to do a PROAPT but we don't first tell them about the importance of God's word in our lives.

Let me give you a quick example of how this could play out with prayer as an example.

Vision:

CAUSALITY

Lets look at how Jesus cast vision in prayer. I would say they mainly got a vision for prayer by seeing Jesus pray. They saw that this was the secret to his life, so they ultimately came up to him and asked him to teach them to pray (Luke 11:1) They saw him cast out demons and then he would say “If you have the faith of a mustard seed you can say to this mountain move from here to there and it will move. Nothing is impossible for you.” Matt 17:20

Matthew 21:20-22 20When the disciples saw this, they were amazed. "How did the fig tree wither so quickly?" they asked. 21Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, if you have faith and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also you can say to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and it will be done. 22If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer."

In 2 Cor 1:10-11. Paul says “He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and He will deliver us. On Him we have set our hope that He will continue to deliver us, **AS YOU HELP US BY YOUR PRAYERS.** Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us **in answer to the prayers of many.**”

Philippians 1:19 “For I know **through your prayers** and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance”

I like what Paul York said at the WMS. “The Bible gives us a picture that some things will not happen even if we do prayer, some things will happen even if we don’t pray and the other things may happen only if we do pray.”

I have been thinking about answered prayers recently—Office and my prayer that God would lead them to want to stay on grounds. Dusty and praying and around the corner was a guy in his truck, who was the owner and made the purchase right there, but was suppose to already be gone for the 4th of July holiday. Praying for Kellog form and now having someone on every floor and in every hall.

INTIMACY

You can also cast the vision for the other side of prayer which is also of utmost importance. The fact that we are to spell our faith with an “R” and this is how we spell it with an “R”. The relational aspect of prayer is stressed in many places, but it is mentioned in Romans 8:15 “You received the Spirit of Sonship. And by him (the Spirit) we cry out Abba, Father”; Galatians 4:6 “The Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out “Abba, Father.” Abba—was table language, the most intimate of terms. Jesus taught us to prayer “Our Father in heaven”

Intention: Luke 18 The parable of the persistent widow was all about having them to have the intention to pray. It starts off by saying that they would pray and not give up. Then he ends it with “when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth. In other words will there still be people praying and believing that God makes a difference.

He is calling them to intention, to pray and not give up!

Means:

He teaches them to pray with the Lord’s prayer.

When you pray says
“Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name
Your kingdom come
Your will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
Give us today our daily bread
Forgive us our debts as we also have forgiven our debtors
And lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from the evil one.”

Remember we use this as scripture now because our Lord said it. You may not always be able to find a scripture for every step on every topic, but you can still think about how can I cast vision, bring intention and then give them a means to walk it out.

This could be a good time to break the group into smaller groups and have them do a bit of a Case Study when it comes to various potential topics. Some of them could be really broad like Evangelism, Purity, Finances, or they could be more specific to your campus.