



PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF YOUR MICROCHURCH

Microchurches, like any community, need some intentionality to be at their healthiest. Sometimes the decentralized structure and organic nature of these groups lead folks to shy away from planning. Yet, in doing so, a microchurch will ultimately end up becoming disjointed or confusing for those involved. This is a guide for how your microchurch can infuse some more intentional planning.

STEP ONE - SWOT ANALYSIS

Begin by working through a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) exercise. SWOT is a helpful analytical framework to get your mind and heart in the right place as you begin. Answer the following questions with your microchurch.

What are the strengths of your ministry?

What are the weaknesses of your ministry?

What opportunities do you have before you?

What are the threats to the fruitfulness of your ministry?

STEP TWO - CREATE GOALS

Based on step one, use this place to write out your goals for the year. Be sure to make your goals SMART. This means you need to make them: S - Specific (not 'Do outreach' but 'Reach out to the baristas at Starbucks) M - Measurable (not 'Mentor people' but 'Mentor 2 new potential leaders') A - Assignable (not 'Send thank you cards,' but 'Sarah will send thank you cards') R - Realistic (not 'Share the Gospel with my entire neighborhood' but 'Share the Gospel with the 5 houses on my street') T - Timely (not 'Start the new program,' but 'Start the new program by May').

STEP THREE - PLAN TIMELINES/ASSIGN TASKS

Use this timeline to plan important events and keep up on important dates. Also, think through who might be best to take lead on these ideas in your microchurch.

What events are we planning?

What people are we trying to love?

What habits are we trying to start?

When do we hope to complete these things?

What resources are we in need of?

Who is best to lead these goals?

STEP FOUR - CREATE A PRAYER PLAN

We plant our microchurches in the physical and work in the world, but we also wrestle “against rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.” (Ephesians 6:12) If we want to see fruit in our ministries, we must be praying without ceasing. (1 Thess. 5:17) What is your plan to pray through this coming season?