

# VISION AND VALUES

Where there is no vision, the people perish

Proverbs 29:18

## Vision

What is vision? Why is it important? How do we start thinking about and forming vision?

**Vision** is your purpose—it's why you do what you do. Vision helps you to know what you are trying to achieve. It enables you to set goals and measure success. Vision will bring purpose and unity to volunteers.

What do you want to accomplish in the lives of the children and families in your church and community? That is your vision.

Know your church's vision and ensure your vision aligns with it.

## Values

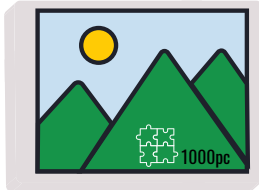
Your **values** are the things that you believe are important in the way you do things in your ministry. They underpin your children's ministry. They determine how you work and what is important. Your values will help determine how your vision is delivered.

## Puzzle Pieces

Tammy Tolman book, *Piece by Piece* talks about the pieces to the puzzle of doing Children's Ministry

Let's talk about vision and strategy as a puzzle.

The picture on the puzzle box



This is the guide—it shows us what the puzzle will look like. It is the vision. The big picture will be determined by questions like:

- Why are we doing this ministry
- What are we aiming to achieve?
- How are we going to do it?

What does this look like in your context?

Your big picture vision will be determined by what you believe about children and faith.

- Can they be saved? At what age? Can God talk to children? Can kids hear from God?
- How do you encourage kids to listen to God?
- Can kids be baptised? Take communion? Can children serve? Do mission? Lead? Minister to others?
- What can they understand? Should they know the whole Bible?

Once you have wrestled with these questions, you will be able to begin to determine what your big picture statement looks like *in your context*. Find your vision from God by reading and praying through the Scriptures—don't copy someone else's.

## Children and Family Ministry Pieces

A puzzle is made up of lots of pieces. What are the pieces of Children and Family Ministry?

### Corners



The corner pieces are our Triune God. God is more interested in you than your ministry, you can only give from what you have, stay filled by drawing close to and being led by God. This is the cornerstone or foundation of your ministry.

## Edges



These are the essential pieces that frame our ministry. What are your essentials?

Leadership, (valuing this area as a ministry, trained people leading it).

Community needs (understanding the community in which you are ministering).

Team (ministry will be as strong or weak as the team we work within), caring, equipping, putting people where they are gifted.

Discipleship—deliberate process of growth for our children, partnering with parents, relationship.

Budget, prayer, outreach, mission, resourcing, intergenerational faith...

## Middle



The middle bits are how you do it in your context—your programmes, your experience, your curriculum, your giftings.

### **What does your picture look like?**

Once you have the picture—share it widely and often. Use it to inspire, encourage, measure, recruit.

The more people know and understand your vision the more they will buy into it and get behind it.