

Ask Questions to Help Others Focus

Want to help others focus on the right things? Ask questions. Ask questions that provoke reflection, for example:

1. What's going on in your ministry?
2. What people/projects are you spending your time/energy on?
3. What are your goals for this next week/month?
4. Whom do you talk to about your ministry?
5. What's been satisfying/frustrating?
6. What are the reasons for your feelings of satisfaction and frustration?
7. How can you build on your progress/minimize your roadblocks?
8. What do you think you'll do?



Want to increase productivity? Talk regularly with others who have similar ministries. For example, the cell church planters pictured above meet to encourage each other, reflect, share best practice, and get input on ministry challenges.

Do Right Things, Then Do Things Right

Imagine the following 5 situations:

1. You dribble the soccer ball toward the goal, check where the goalie is, kick the ball into the upper right corner, and score—at the wrong goal.
2. You're prepared. You've made copies of materials for a workshop on church leadership, brought the copies to the church, and placed copies on the tables 30 minutes before the workshop begins. You feel good—until someone says, "Thanks for doing this parenting workshop."
3. You're seated on the plane, heading off to a 3-month home assignment. You relax, knowing everything on your list is done, including submitting reports, emptying the refrigerator, and stopping the newspaper. You think about sharing at your home church the day after you land—until you realize you haven't prepared at all for your presentation.
4. You're done before the deadline. You've updated the summer mission team recruitment materials, you've even customized the materials for students at Bible U, and you've sent the materials to Bible U two weeks before the deadline. You feel good—until you realize that you have not gotten a single new staff member from Bible U in the past 3 years.
5. You provide training. Staff complete the training. You feel good—until you realize that you targeted staff completing the training, not staff using the training.

Make sure you are working on the right thing.

Bottom line?

Do right things, then do things right. Make sure you are working on the right thing before you spend time fine-tuning what you are working on. This is a challenge. Why? Because, for example, it is easier to edit than it is to develop high quality content. Discipline yourself to do right things, then do things right.

Work smart. Today.

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