

LESSON 3 - ENVISIONING YOUR IMPACT

Over the last couple of days we dove DEEP On two of the three core components of your unique purpose: your RECIPIENT and your ROLE. In short, who or what will you benefit and what could you do to help.

Day 3 is all about Envisioning Your Impact.

Imagine one of your recipients for a moment. What is your ultimate hope for them? What would be the ideal change that could happen in their lives? Imagine boldly. Nothing is beyond possibility with God.

THE POWER OF ENVISIONING

I recall years ago working for a church who had a history of having maybe twenty-five to thirty kids attend Vacation Bible School. In a planning meeting weeks before VBS I asked, how many kids could we accommodate. After a lot of hemming and hawing, they came up with the number sixty. I said, "Awesome, that's how many kids will have." A woman sitting next to me asked with a huge amount of skepticism in her voice, "Where are you going to get these kids?" I said, "I don't know but we will have sixty."

I drew a picture of a thermometer with numbers along it going up to sixty. I began to picture what sixty kids would look like, planning how we would handle sixty, and coloring in my thermometer with each registration. We labored as if that was possible.

And guess what? When the first day of VBS finally arrived we had exactly sixty children! Envisioning what God can do and then laboring as if it is possible is a powerful thing. I just wonder what would have happened if they had said one hundred?

THE BENEFITS OF ENVISIONING.

Since that time I've discovered that envisioning your impact or in other words the RESULT you're striving toward offers many benefits. RESULT is the third "R" in your purpose diagram.

Knowing the result your hoping for:

1. **Creates direction.** Imagine jumping in a car for a trip but no one has a clue where you're going. You can expend a lot of effort going nowhere if you don't clearly know where you are headed.
2. **Equips you to share your vision so other people can participate.**
3. **Gives you a reference point for evaluating your progress.**
4. **Offers a powerful way to lift your hope to God in prayer.** Think about how many times God spoke in the bible through visions. If God pours visions into the hearts of people, why not lift visions to God. (I'll say a lot more about prayer in our Facebook live today. Someone remind me to talk about praying into a solution rather than out of a problem if I forget today.)
5. **Motivates perseverance.** The result that you hope for is what I call the "why" behind the "what". In short, "I'm helping my recipient SO THAT this benefit will occur. Your vision is your hope...and hope keeps us moving. Weak vision will usually result in weak commitment.

TODAY'S EXERCISE

ACTION STEP #1

**Imagine the ultimate outcome for one of your recipients
and offer that image to God as a prayer.**

Use all of your senses. Though I am using the word "image" which is a visual word, don't forget to engage all of your senses. Imagine any smells, tastes, textures, sounds, that you might associate with the ultimate result. You might also include feelings as well.

For example, let's say you are deeply concerned about estranged family members. Imagine the two family members not just saying their sorry to each other, but picture them sharing a favorite meal together. Picture the light of care in their eyes, feel the joy in laughing together about a funny story shared as they eat, smell and taste the meal before them, feel the warmth of a hug when they greet.

You get the idea. Have fun with this.

Lastly, even though I labeled this “Envisioning *Your Impact*” **you don’t have to limit your ideal outcome to just the part you play.** In fact, ideally **imagine the ideal solution that God could achieve..**

Imagine the big picture ultimate outcome. Later we can look at what part you play in making that happen. Your role may be very tiny. Nevertheless, your role may be a critical link in a long chain of events. If even one link is missing the chain is incomplete.

So, don’t undervalue your part AND don’t limit your hope. God can and will fill gaps.

ACTION STEP #2

Share in the private Facebook group your hope for a recipient.

You don’t have to go crazy writing up all of the sensory stuff (though that would be awesome), but do please share with us your hope. Then we can join you in lifting that prayer up and encourage one another.

Lastly, have fun with this and joyfully anticipate what God might do. I leave you with one of my favorite verses from Ephesians,

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” Ephesians 3:20-21

Well that’s it for Day 3. I’ll be LIVE on Facebook at 1 p.m. (CDT) today, Wednesday to expand on this question and to answer questions.

[Click here to join me at that time.](#)

If you’re not a Facebook user you can access any of the challenge materials using this link:

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Blessings,
John Arnold
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