

Vision



Please print these pages and complete them as you go through the eLearning course.

What you will learn:

- The definition of Vision
- Sources of vision
- The difference between vision and OCC's mission statement
- Why vision is needed
- Benefits of vision
- Practical steps for determining the vision the Lord is giving you for your ministry with OCC

Introduction

Fill in the blanks or respond to questions as you complete this course.

1. Vision is—
 - a. A _____ of a preferred future
 - b. _____ you want to go
 - c. What you want things to be like
2. Vision for your team can come from many sources:
 - a. God's Word
 - b. Operation Christmas Child _____ leadership
 - c. Leadership on the regional or Area Team

Vision Changes

Fill in the blanks or respond to questions as you complete this course.

1. While our ministry statement will remain constant; our vision can _____ over time—it's dynamic.

Vision



Why vision?

Fill in the blanks or respond to questions as you complete this course.

1. The goal of a strong ministry vision is for it to _____ every level of leadership within the ministry of Operation Christmas Child so we are all headed in the right direction together.
2. When we have a strong vision for our ministry—
 - a. We can see it as the “_____” that our work progresses towards over time.
 - b. It allows us to see what needs to be changed.
 - c. It allows us to see the optimal, desired future state of what we want to achieve—the “_____.”
 - d. It keeps us from becoming distracted.

Benefits of Vision

Fill in the blanks or respond to questions as you complete this course.

Having a strong vision can do several powerful things—

1. Vision creates and strengthens _____.
 - a. Togetherness is not only the result of working toward a goal, but also of teams taking _____ of vision.
 - b. Your fellow volunteers should be able to give _____ into where they believe their portion of the ministry should be heading.
 - c. Your team’s vision should maintain the High Impact principle of alignment to you, your region, to OCC, and to _____!
2. Vision _____ your team.
 - a. In the Old Testament, Nehemiah utilizes vision to energize in two ways:
 - i. First, through passionate _____ of the vision.
(Nehemiah 2:17)

Vision



Benefits of Vision (continued)

- ii. Second, the story of Nehemiah illustrates an effective and energetic _____ of vision. (Nehemiah 2:18b)
 - b. As a leader, you are called to _____ cast vision to your volunteers.
 - c. When you are intentional in casting vision, your team will remain _____ along the way.
3. Vision inspires _____.
- a. It is our hope that the vision of Operation Christmas Child will inspire you to _____, so long as the Lord calls you, until every child has had a chance to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ!

Power in Writing Down Vision

Fill in the blanks or respond to questions as you complete this course.

- 1. There is power in writing things down, especially vision.
 - a. It creates _____.
 - b. It becomes more than an idea.
 - c. It becomes a real _____ of a preferred future.
 - d. It will help you be able to articulate it to those with whom you are serving.

Reflection Question

What is the vision you feel the Lord has given you for your ministry with Operation Christmas Child? _____

Vision



Preparing Your Heart to Listen

Fill in the blanks or respond to questions as you complete this course.

1. The key is to set your _____ to seek God.
 - a. Ask him to re-ignite your heart, give you a keen insight, keep you sensitive to His moving, and, ultimately, develop a strong vision.
2. We must...
 - a. Seek to _____ our minds and our hearts
 - b. _____ on the Lord so we can receive what He wants to say to us
3. Engage with the _____ found in Matthew 6:9-13.

"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. And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one."

 - a. Begin with Praise – Read Psalm 46:10
 - i. Be _____ and know that He is God.
 - ii. Begin your time of prayer being still and try to push away all distractions.
 - iii. Start your prayer time by _____ God the Father for who He is, his attributes, and His character.
 - b. His Ways, Not Mine
 - i. Spend time now asking for forgiveness in areas of your life that you have not given the Lord _____ control—areas where your will is coming first.

Continued on the next page.

Vision



Preparing Your Heart to Listen (continued)

- c. Provision – Read 1 Corinthians 4:7
 - i. As you move into this part of your time with the Lord, what is it that you most desperately need from Him?
 - ii. What _____ do you have in your life that may be inhibiting the Lord to work in and through you?
- d. Repentance
 - i. Spend time in _____ before the Lord.
 - ii. Ask Him for the _____ that's already been made possible through Jesus Christ and for the power of the Holy Spirit to overcome.
- e. Temptation – Read 1 Peter 5:8-9
 - i. Spend time asking the Lord for _____ to resist the devil, stand firm in your faith, and for the wisdom to know when he [the devil] is prowling about in your life.
- f. Forgiveness – “For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.” Matthew 6: 14-15 (NIV)
 - i. During this time we want to focus our hearts and minds on any _____ issues we are experiencing.
 - ii. Spend time now asking the Lord’s help in _____ so you can be set free from the bondage of unforgiveness.

Continued on the next page.

Vision



Reflection Questions

Read Joshua 1:1-9 to see the vision the Lord gave Joshua. Then complete the reflection questions listed below.

As you think about your leadership role, what areas do you need to ask the Lord for courage and strength? Take a few minutes to ask the Lord to reveal this to you.

How or where do you feel the Lord may be calling you to step out of your comfort zone? Take a few minutes to ask the Lord to show you areas where He is wanting you to step out in faith, to be strong and courageous. _____

Where do you sense the Lord may be calling the team you lead to step out in faith? Take a few minutes to ask the Lord to show you this. _____

Take time now to write down what you feel the Lord has been saying to you during this time of reflection. _____

Vision



Reflection Questions (continued)

What common themes have you seen throughout this exercise that would lead you to see a vision the Lord has for you? _____

Reviving Vision

Fill in the blanks or respond to questions as you complete this course.

1. Even when we feel the Lord has given us a vision, there can be times when we feel _____.

Reflection Questions

Read Deuteronomy 1:1-8 and then answer the reflection questions provided below.

In verse 4, we read that the people had experienced some victories along their long journey. Can you think back to some of the victories (big and small) the Lord has given you in your leadership? Why is it often hard to remember the victories when we feel stuck? _____

Vision



Reflection Questions (continued)

The people had been at Mount Horeb for a year instead of continuing to move on toward the promised land. That's why He told them they had been there long enough. As you think about your team, could the Lord's words in verse 6 be true for your team as well? Are you at the same place today as you were a year ago? Why or why not? What is keeping you where you are? _____

Spend time now asking the Lord to begin showing you what vision He has for you and your team. What is the "promised land" He is calling you to move toward in order to fulfill His plan of redemption for the children of the world through the ministry of OCC?

Vision



Essential Activities

Essential Activities and Elective Practical Exercises are ways for you to apply what you are learning in your Leadership Development Program coursework in real time, gaining “on the job” experience as you develop in your leadership role. These activities and exercises help align the tasks you would already be doing as a leader volunteer with what you are learning in the program.

Below you will find a list of Essential Activities to work on with your regional point of contact that relate to this particular course and your overall ministry as an Operation Christmas Child leader volunteer. You should complete each of these activities. In addition, you will find a list of Elective Practical Exercises from which you should, with the guidance of your regional point of contact, choose an additional one to complete.

- Refer back to your responses to the reflection questions you completed for this course. What has the Lord revealed to you as His vision for you and your team? Discuss the vision for your team with your regional point of contact.
- What is the benefit of brainstorming vision ideas with your team and your regional point of contact? Mark the date on your calendar that you will plan to do this with both.

Elective Practical Exercises

Review the list of possible Elective Practical Exercises below with your regional point of contact and, **with their guidance**, select one of these exercises to complete as a part of this course based on the time of year, the make-up of your particular Area Team, the goals you have developed for your own ministry and the ministry of your team, etc. You should be prepared to discuss the exercise you complete at your next meeting with your regional point of contact.

- As you learned in this lesson, we need to prepare our hearts before we can hear from the Lord. Take time to get alone with God to declutter your mind and heart. Focus on the Lord using the Lord’s prayer found in Matthew 6:9-15.
- Read Habakkuk 2:2. Do you see the biblical model for implementing vision? 1. Write the vision. 2. Make it plain. 3. Run with it. Compare this model with Nehemiah’s actions in envisioning his team. After the vision is established, how will you and your team make it “make it plain”? How can your team “run with it” to bring shoebox multiplication?