

Jesus' WHY: Do You Know Yours?

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Start with Why

- “Very few people or companies can clearly articulate WHY they do WHAT they do.” (Simon Sinek, Start with Why)
- WHY are you a follower of Jesus?
- WHY does your church exist?
- HOW does the church tell others WHY or WHAT we do?

Jesus' WHY

- 9:36 “When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd.”
- How did this fit God's WHY?
- How else did Jesus demonstrate his WHY?

What's our WHY?

- What's the WHY of the UMC?
- What's your church's WHY?
- The WHY is “because we love you!”
- Who does your heart break for?

Start with WHY

- What do you think would have happened if Jesus forgot his WHY? How was he reminded of his WHY?
- What do you think happens when we forget our WHY?
- How does your church keep reminding itself of its WHY?

What was Jesus' WHAT?

- WHAT are the activities that we do. We usually know pretty clearly WHAT we do, and we often begin with WHAT to do instead of remembering WHY.
- We expect that people will be convinced because of WHAT we do rather than WHY we do it. So we focus on communicating WHAT, not WHY.

- **9:10** He called his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits to throw them out and to heal every disease and every sickness. **10:5** Jesus sent these twelve out and commanded them, “Don’t go among the Gentiles or into a Samaritan city. **6** Go instead to the lost sheep, the people of Israel. **7** As you go, make this announcement: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ **8** Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those with skin diseases, and throw out demons. You received without having to pay. Therefore, give without demanding payment.

NIC WHAT

- What are your church's WHATs?
- How do your WHATs match what Jesus did?
- How do your WHATs communicate the WHY?
- Do we expect that our WHATs will revitalize our church (instead of relying on our WHY)?

HOW did Jesus do WHY and WHAT?

- “HOWs are your values or principles that bring your cause to life. HOW we do things manifests in the systems and processes within an organization and culture.” (Simon Sinek)
- HOWs are the way we do WHATs that help you realize the mission—everything you say and do is in alignment. HOW guides us in our actions in any situation. They are our Core Values. They also help communicate our WHY.

Jesus' HOWs

9 Workers deserve to be fed, so don't gather gold or silver or copper coins for your money belts to take on your trips. **10** Don't take a backpack for the road or two shirts or sandals or a walking stick. **11** Whatever city or village you go into, find somebody in it who is worthy and stay there until you go on your way. **12** When you go into a house, say, 'Peace!' **13** If the house is worthy, give it your blessing of peace. But if the house isn't worthy, take back your blessing. **14** If anyone refuses to welcome you or listen to your words, shake the dust off your feet as you leave that house or city.

How our HOWs align with our WHY

- How does the way (HOW) we do the following communicate WHY we do it?
 - Make our child's lunch
 - Usher at church
 - Serve a meal at a homeless shelter

Are our HOWs in line with our WHY?

Name 4 not-so-good HOWs and 4 good ones in your church, such as “same people do everything” and “we take care of each other in times of need”?

- How do you change HOW we do things when we're so used to the way we do them?

Why we need clear WHYs, WHATs and HOWs

- “When people come to work with a higher sense of purpose, they find it easier to weather hard times or even to find opportunity in those times. People who come to work with a clear sense of WHY are less prone to giving up after a few failures because they understand the higher cause.” (Simon Sinek)

Strength for the journey

- **16** “Look, I’m sending you as sheep among wolves. Therefore, be wise as snakes and innocent as doves. **17** Watch out for people—because they will hand you over to councils and they will beat you in their synagogues. **18** They will haul you in front of governors and even kings because of me so that you may give your testimony to them and to the Gentiles. **19** Whenever they hand you over, don’t worry about how to speak or what you will say, because what you can say will be given to you at that moment. **20** You aren’t doing the talking, but the Spirit of my Father is doing the talking through you. **21** Brothers and sisters will hand each other over to be executed. A father will turn his child in. Children will defy their parents and have them executed. **22** Everyone will hate you on account of my name. But whoever stands firm until the end will be saved. **23** Whenever they harass you in one city, escape to the next, because I assure that you will not go through all the cities of Israel before the Human One[d] comes.

Vision of where we're going

- “Our visions are the world we imagine, the tangible results of what the world would look like if we spent every day in pursuit of our WHY.” (Simon Sinek)
- What was Jesus' vision for us/world?

The vision of your church

- What's Jesus' vision of your church? (not yours but his!)
- If your WHY is clearly before you, and your WHATs and HOWs communicate your WHY, what difference would it make in your church?
- What needs to change in order to do that?