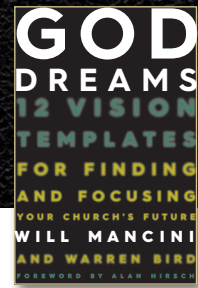




GOD
DREAMS



Metaphor Tools to Develop Your Beyond-the-Horizon Vivid Description

From One Picture Idea to Your Vivid Description

The primary purpose of *God Dreams* is to help you develop a vivid description of the beyond-the-horizon vision. This is the “top” of your Horizon Storyline and represents a picture of the future 5-20 years away depending on the age and life stage of the ministry.

The first step is to select and relate your top two templates in order to come up with one picture idea. Once the idea is determined, it's time to develop a full-blown, compelling picture based on the idea. The metaphor tools below help you create picturesque, memorable and emotional language to make your vision move. Remember the four imperatives:

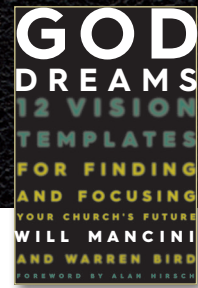
1. **Paint a Picture**
2. **Solve a Problem**
3. **Stir the Heart**
4. **God-size it**

Also, be careful not to create a “vision statement” in the old-school sense of the term. You are not writing something you will frame on the wall or share in writing. Vision transfers through people not paper. The purpose of the vivid description is to write a dozen or two sentences that can be a “mental charging station” for your team as they share the dream with people every week. Or think of it as a written “base camp” to calibrate the team's understanding of the preferred future. Every day the team goes on excursions to share the vision with leaders, volunteers, regular attenders or guests. But at the end of the day they can reference the vivid description as a baseline articulation.





GOD
DREAMS



Links to Tools

- For quick reminders and examples of figurative language:
<http://literarydevices.net/figurative-language>
- The Phrase Finder is a fun place to explore:
<http://www.phrases.org.uk>
- Writing Tools by Roy Peter Clark free audiobook. This classic book teaches fifty writing tools. I recommended focusing on the following tools: 1, 9, 10, 11, 14, 16, 17, and 22.
<https://itunes.apple.com/us/itunes-u/roys-writing-tools/id380130686?mt=10>
- Google search for lyrics of your favorite songs. You will be blown away. Show your vivid vision description to your kids and ask them for songs you can use.
- It's a good idea to use online dictionaries and thesauruses. Here are two basics:
<http://dictionary.com> and <http://thesaurus.com>

