



Strategy: Current Programming Assessment

Adapted from Unstuck Group, see podcast episode 279

5 Reasons Why to Assess Current Programming

1. In order for your multiplication funnel to be _____, you need to be sure your assimilation funnel is _____.
2. Over time, most churches become _____, losing sight of who they are trying to reach.
3. New _____ by itself will not produce new _____.
4. The more programs you have to manage the less _____ manages to happen.
5. Your dream disciple provides a whole new _____ bullseye.

Program Assessment and Alignment Pre-Work

Be sure that your leadership team is aware of the work that you've been doing through the Funnel Fusion journey. They should be aware of the following:

- Your updated all-play, everyday **Mission**
- Your picture of your **Dream Disciple**
- Your broad level **Strategy Map**.

With the context of these components of your vision frame, the team should be able to begin the first steps of the assessment process.

3 Steps to Assessing and Aligning Current Programming

STEP #1: Let ministry teams recommend program/event reductions first.

First, have the ministry team list all their programming options. For example, youth ministry will want to list things like retreats, mission trips, Sunday school, mid-week, lock-ins, service projects, bible studies, etc. (Note: It's easiest to put each individual program or event onto a separate sticky note.)

Then, divide everything in half based on the amount of life change you are seeing. By life change you want to consider a few things: 1) People moving toward Jesus 2) People taking steps of growth into the roles of your dream disciple 3) the number of people impacted by that program/event —is it increasing, decreasing or plateaued?) You should now have two lists.

Now, consider the time investment required—include leadership investment, volunteers needed, money, space, promotions, etc. Draw a horizontal line through the two exiting vertical columns/ lists and have the team split the programs in half again, this time passed on high or low resource investment.



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You should now have four equal lists. One of the lists will include programs/events that are leading to low life change and yet require high resource investment. Those are the programs and events that should be recommended by the team to cut or prune. Each ministry team will need to make a very strong case for why the wintry still helps the church accomplish its mission.

STEP #2: Evaluate the remaining programming/events from the perspective of the entire church.

The senior leadership team should take the work from each sub-ministry and repeat the exercise, but with everything you are doing across the entire church. Again, putting each program on a sticky note can be helpful. Start by asking, "Is life change produced by this program higher or lower? Then ask: Does this program require high or lower level or resource investment?"

Note: This time you do not need to take each of the four lists equal—just take the remaining ministries and plot them in each of the four lists based on the white board drawing (See flip chart drawing below).

STEP #3: Prepare your realignment plan.

Place every program you identified at either the ministry level or the all-church level that is being considered for pruning and/or realignment. You have five options do consider as a team:

1. **Catalyze:** Maximize those things that are high life change/ low resource investment.
2. **Continue:** When using this option, be sure you've named any adjustments that will need to be made inside the event/program based on how it helps you to develop your Dream Disciple.
3. **Combine:** Use this option when two programs have a similar purpose. Reduce redundancy by combining the two programs.
4. **Cage:** Use this option to pause the ministry in order to do a thorough evaluation or use it to allow a program to run it course but stop investing resources into it. (Use this very sparingly).
5. **Cut:** Make the decision to stop the program. Celebrate the purpose it played in the past and yet choose to reallocate the resources into that which will serve your disciple-making future more effectively in the next season.

3 Big Questions to Answer

With your assessment complete, answer the following questions in regard to what remains:

1. Where does this program sit on our disciple-making pathway? (Is it primary or secondary?)
2. What changes need to me made within this program to help develop our Dream Disciple?
3. Have we determined our standardized multiplication vehicle(s) and where does it sit?

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