

## **Big Events, Super Results**

At the end of every NFL season, one of the greatest events of all time is put on display – the Super Bowl. Whether you like it or not, it is the most widely televised event in the world, not just the game its self, but the pre-game show, the halftime show, and the post game show. And that is not even including all of the commercials the Super Bowl is known for.

Have you ever stopped and thought about what it takes – the time, the money, the resources, the people, the planning – to put on an event of that scale? And at the end of the day, the Super Bowl is just entertainment. It's not changing lives.

But what we do, even if it doesn't cost millions of dollars and doesn't have people all over the world watching, is far more meaningful and important. However, we need to give the same amount of attention to detail to our programming and events as what is expected for the Super Bowl.

One thing I love and I believe is very valuable is creativity. We cannot make any excuses for not being creative. No matter how big or small you are, we all have to tap into and use our creativity. And whether you believe it or not, you have the ability to be creative.

**II Timothy 1: 6-7** *"Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. (Vrs.7) for God has not given us a spirit of fear, but power, and love, and a sound mind."*

**Creative Defined:** *the ability to be creative or to be imaginative.*

**Idea Defined:** *something that's imagined or pictured.*

### **Excuses youth leaders use for their lack of creativity.**

- I can't be creative
- Either you are creative or your not
- We tried that before
- We can not afford that
- That's too radical
- That's never been tried before
- I don't have time
- We have always done it this way
- That's not spiritual

**Proverbs 23:7** *"For as a man think in his heart so is he."*

- 90% of all 5 year olds are original [clouds in the sky]
- 2% of all adult ideas are original.

Oliver Holmes said: *“People do not quit playing because they get old. They get old because they quit playing.”*

Ideas are waiting to be discovered. A bigger youth group, more leaders, more salvations, better youth facilities, better sermons, more money.

**Zechariah 4:10** *“Do not despise small beginnings for the eyes of the Lord rejoice to see the works begin.”*

## **6 Factors that hinder creativity**

### **1. Following the Norm**

**Mark 9:23** *“If you can believe all things are possible to him who believes.”*

- Walt Disney started the Disney Empire with only \$500 in 1923.
- Tap into your God given ability [Gen 1:26]

### **2. Fear of Failure**

**Proverbs 1:33** *“But whoever listens to me will dwell safely, and will be secure, without fear of evil. Listen to wisdom and live unafraid.”*

- Pastor Willie George – “Every endeavor requires risk”
- Cornel Sanders was denied 1,009 times for K.F.C. before success
- 23 different publishers rejected the author of Dr. Seuss; the 24<sup>th</sup> one sold over 6 million copies of his first book.

### **3. Forgetting the Dream**

**Proverbs 29:18** *“Where there is no vision the people will perish.”*

- It costs nothing to dream, dreaming is free.
- Dream about ideas that can make a difference.
- Albert Einstein “Dreaming is the preview of the coming attractions”

### **4. Fruitless Environment**

**II Corinthians 6:14** *“Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness?”*

- The companion of fools will be destroyed.

### **5. Faithless Lifestyles**

**Hebrews 11:6** *“Without faith it is impossible to please God.”*

- Richard James invented the slinky by dropping a spring.
- Leo Gerstenzang created the Q-tip with toothpick and cotton.

**Luke 1:37** *“With God nothing is impossible.”*

## **6. Failure to Plan**

**Proverbs 16:9** *“A man’s heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.”*

- Things don’t just happen they must be planned.
- Ideas without action are just idle thoughts
- A failure to plan is a plan to fail.

**Luke 14:28** *“For which of you intending to build a tower, does not sit down first and count the cost, whether he has a enough to finish it.”*

**J. Peterman** *“There is no shortage of ideas in life, just shortage of people who recognize them.”*

## **How to Build a Creative Thinking Team**

**Mark 6:38-44** *“How many loaves do you have?” he asked “Go and see.” When they found out, they said, “Five—and two fish.” Then Jesus directed them to have all the people sit down in groups on the green grass. So they sat down in groups of hundreds and fifties. Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven, he gave thanks and broke the loaves. Then he gave them to his disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. They all ate and were satisfied, and the disciples picked up twelve basketfuls of broken pieces of bread and fish. The number of the men who had eaten was five thousand.”*

**Creative Team Defined:** *A group of growing people on the same side working together with creativity*

When it comes to creativity and making a serious impact there is no better way than team creativity.

## **The Power of a Team**

- Teams pull the best out of you.
- Teams win championships - not one player.
- Teams keep you accountable to the vision.

*“One is too small a number to achieve greatness.” -John Maxwell*

## **What to look for in your team:**

**Exodus 35:10** *“Come, all of you who are skilled craftsmen having a special talent, and construct what God has commanded us.”*

- People with a heart for youth ministry
- People with excitement.
- People with a gift.

## **The Creative Team**

- Let your team know their value.
- Let your team be unique and creative.
- Let your team take risks.
- Talk with your team-not at them.
- Your team should feel free to disagree.
- Make sure they know what is expected of them.
- Share the goals and visions with the team.

**Proverbs 15:22** *“Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.”*

*“There are no problems we cannot solve together, and very few that we can solve by ourselves.” -Lyndon B. Johnson*

## **Brainstorming**

Setting aside time to meet with your team to brainstorm is vital, not only to the ministry but also to the leaders.

According to research, 80% of the innovative ways we are going to do things in the next five years has not been created yet.

When you brainstorm with your team, look for that ah ha! Moment.

**Proverbs 8:12** *“I, wisdom, dwell in prudence and find out knowledge of witty inventions.”*

## **Bainstorming 101**

- No idea is too stupid.
- The more ideas the better.
- The wilder the ideas the better.
- Consider every idea.

Dumb ideas are the ones that never get suggested.

**The Team – these are the people you want in the meeting.**

- Director      They handle the meeting.
- Analysts      They look for holes in the idea.
- Innovators    They are full of ideas.
- Researcher    Find what is needed.
- Delegators    They assign the plan to the team.
- Finishers      They follow up on the team until completion.

The creativity of each team member adds to the creativity of the team.

**Brainstorming process**

- WILL          Pastor like this?
- WHO          Will be responsible?
- WHY          Should we do this?
- HOW          Will we pay for it?
- WHERE        Will it take place?

Creative ideas work best when you do them.

***1 Corinthians 10:31*** “So whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”

**There are three kinds of events**

1. Regular events: Weekly service
2. Theme events: Teaching on a series, holidays, school calendar
3. Big events: Special services with unique programming

**Luke 14:28 (Message)** “Is there anyone here who, planning to build a new house, doesn’t sit down and figure the cost so you’ll know if you can complete it?”

**8 Laws for event planning**

1. Purpose:      Why are we doing this
2. People:        Who will help to fulfill this event
3. Plan:          How will this event happen
4. Problem:      What potential issues do you see
5. Price:          How much will this cost
6. Promotion:    How will we get the word out
7. Preparations: Thinking though the event
8. Pastor:        Will he or she give it their blessing