**MISSION/ VALUES**

**THE GREAT COMMANDS WORKSHOP**

**Best for: Churches needing to create or significantly revise their mission statement**

**OVERVIEW**

This format guides tables through examining the Great Commission and Great Commandment, then builds mission and values from biblical foundations. Tables work through four workshop sessions, building from Scripture to application.

**Timeline:** 2.5 hours  
**Attendance:** 50-100 people  
**Table Groups:** 8 people per table

**PREPARATION (4-6 Weeks Before)**

**Week 1-2: Planning & Recruitment**

* Form planning team (3-4 people plus interim pastor)
* Select and confirm table facilitators (one per table, 6-12 facilitators needed)
* Reserve meeting space with tables for 8
* Order supplies

**Week 3-4: Materials Development**

* Create table facilitator packets
* Prepare Scripture handouts for each table
* Print discussion worksheets
* Create poster boards for recording (one per table)
* Prepare synthesis worksheets for interim pastor

**Week 5: Training & Promotion**

* Train table facilitators (90-minute session)
* Begin promoting event (announcements, bulletins, emails)
* Send reminder about bringing Bibles

**Week 6: Final Details**

* Confirm facilitator attendance
* Print final materials
* Prepare room setup diagram
* Test any technology needed

**SUPPLIES CHECKLIST**

**Per Table:**

* Large poster board (24x36 minimum)
* Markers (4-5 different colors)
* Scripture handout packet
* Workshop discussion guide
* Table number tent
* Sticky notes (2 pads per table)

**Front of Room:**

* Large display boards (4 total for synthesis)
* Projector and screen (optional)
* Timer with bell or chime
* Your presentation notes

**Registration:**

* Sign-in sheets
* Name tags
* Pens

**EVENT TIMELINE**

**Opening (15 minutes)**

**Welcome and Purpose (5 minutes)**

"Welcome to our Mission and Values Event. Today we will examine what God calls every church to do and be, then we will clarify how our church fulfills that calling in our specific context.

Every church exists for the same two Great Commands Jesus gave us: the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) and the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37-40). Your mission statement answers the question: 'How does our church fulfill these commands in our community?' Your core values answer: 'What principles guide how we live out this mission?'

Today you will work at tables through four workshop sessions. Each table has a facilitator who will guide discussion and record your insights. We will rotate through these sessions:

1. Great Commission Workshop - Making disciples
2. Great Commandment Workshop - Loving God and neighbors
3. Values Workshop - How we do ministry
4. Mission Statement Workshop - Bringing it all together

Ground rules: All perspectives matter. Focus on biblical principles, not personal preferences. Listen to understand, not to argue."

**Opening Prayer (3 minutes)**

**Instructions (7 minutes)**

"You have been assigned to tables. Find your table number and be seated. Each table has a facilitator who will guide you. You will stay at your table for all four workshop sessions.

Each session is 25 minutes:

* First 5 minutes: Your facilitator introduces the topic and Scripture
* Next 15 minutes: Table discussion using provided questions
* Final 5 minutes: Write your conclusions on the poster board

I will ring a bell to signal transitions between sessions. Your facilitator will help you stay on track. After all four workshops, we will synthesize findings together."

**Workshop Session 1: Great Commission (25 minutes)**

**Facilitator Instructions:**

**Minutes 1-5: Introduction** Read Matthew 28:18-20 together. Then say:

"Jesus gave us the Great Commission: make disciples. This is not optional for churches. Every church must ask: 'How are we making disciples who make disciples?' Let me give you the five elements Jesus included:

1. Going - We go to people, not just wait for them to come
2. Making disciples - Not just converts, but followers who grow
3. Baptizing - We celebrate new believers publicly
4. Teaching - We help people obey everything Jesus commanded
5. Together - Jesus promises His presence as we do this

Now let's discuss how our church lives this out."

**Minutes 6-20: Discussion** Ask these questions in order. Let the table discuss. Take notes on paper first.

1. "How does our church currently help people become followers of Jesus?"
2. "Once someone becomes a Christian here, what happens next? How do we help them grow?"
3. "Does our church equip members to make disciples themselves? How?"
4. "What is one area where we excel in the Great Commission? What is one area where we struggle?"

**Minutes 21-25: Record Conclusions** On your poster board, write:

GREAT COMMISSION STRENGTHS:

* [List what table identified]

GREAT COMMISSION GROWTH AREAS:

* [List what table identified]

HOW WE MAKE DISCIPLES:

* [Summary statement in 1-2 sentences]

**Workshop Session 2: Great Commandment (25 minutes)**

**Facilitator Instructions:**

**Minutes 1-5: Introduction** Read Matthew 22:37-40 together. Then say:

"Jesus said the greatest commandments are to love God with everything we are and love our neighbors as ourselves. Churches must do both. You cannot love God without loving people, and you cannot truly love people without loving God first.

The Great Commandment has two parts:

1. Vertical Love - Loving God wholeheartedly through worship, prayer, devotion, obedience
2. Horizontal Love - Loving neighbors through service, compassion, meeting needs, sacrifice

Let's discuss how our church practices these loves."

**Minutes 6-20: Discussion**

1. "How does our church help people love God more deeply?"
2. "Who are the 'neighbors' our church currently serves? How do we show them Christ's love?"
3. "Are there neighbors in our community we are NOT reaching or serving? Who are they?"
4. "What is one area where we excel in the Great Commandment? What is one area where we struggle?"

**Minutes 21-25: Record Conclusions**

GREAT COMMANDMENT STRENGTHS:

* [List what table identified]

GREAT COMMANDMENT GROWTH AREAS:

* [List what table identified]

HOW WE LOVE GOD AND NEIGHBORS:

* [Summary statement in 1-2 sentences]

**Workshop Session 3: Core Values (25 minutes)**

**Facilitator Instructions:**

**Minutes 1-5: Introduction** "Core values are the principles that guide HOW we do ministry. They answer questions like: 'What matters most to us?' 'What won't we compromise?' 'How do we make decisions?' 'What kind of church culture do we want?'

Values are different from mission. Your mission is WHAT you do. Your values are HOW and WHY you do it.

Some examples of church values:

* Biblical authority - We submit to Scripture in all things
* Prayer - We depend on God, not our own efforts
* Authenticity - We value real relationships over appearances
* Excellence - We do our best for God's glory
* Generosity - We give freely because God gave to us
* Unity - We prioritize relationships over preferences

Now let's identify what values already exist in our church."

**Minutes 6-20: Discussion**

1. "When someone visits our church, what do they experience? What would they say we value?"
2. "Think about major decisions our church has made. What principles guided those decisions?"
3. "What would we never compromise, even if it cost us members or money?"
4. "If we could only keep three values, which three define us most?"

**Minutes 21-25: Record Conclusions**

OUR TOP 5 CORE VALUES:

1. [Value name] - [One sentence explanation]
2. [Value name] - [One sentence explanation]
3. [Value name] - [One sentence explanation]
4. [Value name] - [One sentence explanation]
5. [Value name] - [One sentence explanation]

**Workshop Session 4: Mission Statement (25 minutes)**

**Facilitator Instructions:**

**Minutes 1-5: Introduction**

**If your church HAS a mission statement:** Read your current mission statement to the table. Then say:

"We have a mission statement, but we need to evaluate it honestly. A good mission statement is:

* Biblical (rooted in Great Commission and Great Commandment)
* Clear (anyone can understand it)
* Memorable (people can remember and repeat it)
* Distinctive (reflects our unique calling and context)
* Directional (guides decisions and priorities)

Let's evaluate what we have and decide if it needs updating."

**If your church DOES NOT have a mission statement:** "We do not currently have a mission statement. That's okay! Today we have discussed the Great Commission, Great Commandment, and our values. Now we will draft a mission statement that captures who we are and what God has called us to do."

**Minutes 6-20: Discussion**

**If you HAVE a mission statement:**

1. "Is our current mission statement biblical? Does it reflect the Great Commission and Great Commandment?"
2. "Is it clear and memorable? Can most members quote it?"
3. "Does it reflect who we actually are, or who we wish we were?"
4. "Does it guide our decisions, or is it just words on paper?"
5. "Should we keep it as is, revise it, or start over? Why?"

**If you DO NOT have a mission statement:**

1. "Looking at our Great Commission discussion, what is God calling us to do in making disciples?"
2. "Looking at our Great Commandment discussion, who are we called to love and serve?"
3. "Looking at our values discussion, what makes us unique?"
4. "Complete this sentence in 15 words or less: 'God has called [Church Name] to...'"
5. "Draft a simple mission statement together."

**Minutes 21-25: Record Conclusions**

**If you HAVE a mission statement:** CURRENT MISSION STATEMENT: [Write it exactly]

OUR EVALUATION:

* Keep as is?
* Needs minor revision?
* Needs major revision?
* Start over?

WHY: [2-3 sentence explanation]

**If you DO NOT have a mission statement:** OUR DRAFT MISSION STATEMENT: [Write it]

WHY THIS CAPTURES WHO WE ARE: [2-3 sentences]

**Break (10 minutes)**

**Synthesis Session (35 minutes)**

**Great Commission Findings (7 minutes)** "Looking at your poster boards, what did you identify as our church's strengths in making disciples?"

* Let 2-3 tables share
* Write common themes on display board
* Ask about growth areas

**Great Commandment Findings (7 minutes)** "What are our strengths in loving God and neighbors?"

* Let 2-3 tables share
* Write themes on display board
* Ask about growth areas

**Core Values Synthesis (10 minutes)** "I want to hear the top values from each table. Call them out."

* Write every value mentioned
* Circle or tally values mentioned by multiple tables
* "These values appeared most often: [Name top 5-7]. Does this capture who we are?"

**Mission Statement Discussion (11 minutes)**

**If you HAVE a mission statement:** "How many tables said 'keep as is'? 'Minor revision'? 'Major revision'? 'Start over'?"

* Tally responses
* Ask tables to explain reasoning
* Summarize majority view

**If you DO NOT have a mission statement:** "Let's hear the draft mission statements your tables created."

* Let each table read their draft
* Write key phrases on board
* Look for common elements
* Draft combined statement using their language
* Ask for feedback and refine

**Closing (10 minutes)**

**Summary (5 minutes)** "Today you did sacred work. You examined Scripture, evaluated your church honestly, identified core values, and clarified your mission.

GREAT COMMISSION: We are strong in [strengths] but need to grow in [areas] GREAT COMMANDMENT: We excel at [strengths] but need to improve in [areas] CORE VALUES: These principles guide us: [top 5 values] MISSION STATEMENT: [Summary of decision]

All of this goes into the Church Profile."

**Next Steps (2 minutes)** "The Transition Team will compile findings and present a proposal within two weeks including finalized values and mission statement. This comes to the church for approval and becomes the foundation for our pastor search."

**Closing Prayer (3 minutes)**

**POST-EVENT TASKS**

**Same Day:**

* Collect all poster boards
* Take photos
* Thank facilitators
* Note themes

**Within 1 Week:**

* Type findings by category
* Create draft proposal
* Share with Transition Team

**Within 2 Weeks:**

* Finalize mission statement
* Write value descriptions
* Create proposal for church

**Within 4 Weeks:**

* Present to church
* Vote on mission and values
* Incorporate into Church Profile
* Plan next event

**COMPARISON OF THREE FORMATS**

| **Factor** | **Format 1** | **Format 2** | **Format 3** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Best For | Creating mission | Evaluating existing | Discovering true values |
| Time | 2.5 hours | 2 hours | 2 hours |
| Complexity | Moderate | Low | High |
| Creates New Mission? | Yes | Maybe | Maybe |
| Focus | Biblical foundations | Current reality | Decision patterns |
| Movement | None | Rotate stations | None |
| Engagement | High | Moderate | Very high |
| Difficulty | Low | Moderate | High |

**END OF GUIDE**