

Evaluating Effectiveness - Episode 371

Weekend Quality Check (Part 4)

You're ready for first-time guests. You've planned your sermon series. You've prepared your message. But how do you know if it's working? **How do you evaluate your weekend experience?**

Throughout the "Weekend Quality Check" series, we've shared some practical ways you can increase the quality of your weekend planning, preparation and execution. Now, it's time to evaluate it.

In this episode, Sean and Amy talk through some ways to evaluate our weekends. Plus, we have another great interview to share with you from a very strategic Millennial pastor whom we love dearly: Jimmy McCloud at First Christian in Canton, Ohio.

Key Quotes

1. SEAN: "The core issue here that creates quality problems is the 'Sunday is always coming' issue; it can feel like we don't have time to pause and evaluate what's working and what's not working."
2. AMY: "When we fail to evaluate the weekend and assess its effectiveness, we can get into this rut of just running the same plays and delivering the relatively same experience each weekend."
3. AMY: "You might have an evaluation built into the process, but if the wins aren't defined, then we're just evaluating things against people's preferences."
4. AMY: "Part of our success at our church was building a culture of feedback because of what our lead pastor and teaching team modeled."
5. JIMMY: "The key for us has been regularity. When we really drilled down and focused on being consistent with our time to meet, that made a huge difference."

Self-Assessment: How Are We Doing?

1. What is our current process for evaluating our weekend service (i.e., do we have a recurring weekly debrief)?
2. Do we have defined wins for our weekend or a stated purpose against which we can measure our effectiveness? If so, what are they?
3. When we meet, are we evaluating each section of the service (think announcements, music and message) in terms of what went right, what went wrong and how we can improve for the future?
4. How are we working to create a "culture of feedback" so that it is normal and expected?
5. Do we have clear "owners" for each part of our weekend experience who can be held accountable?

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