

Time to Refocus - Episode 431

In January, you have permission to slow down enough to be intentional about the rest of your year. The goal isn't perfection; it's progress. And progress starts with **planning**.

In the next part of our series, "How to Not Waste January," we're moving from reflection to talking about what's next. It's time to **refocus** by creating plans and establishing rhythms for the new year.

In this episode, Amy and Sean talk about how to plan when things are going well at your church, the key questions to ask when planning and how to calendar tangible planning rhythms.

Key Quotes

- "For the majority of pastors, it's difficult to make time to plan because it can disrupt their very disciplined weekly schedules."
- "Culture changes quickly, and we need to keep our eyes above the waterline so that we can adapt to what's adapting around us."
- "Drifting without direction is far more dangerous than an imperfect plan that you're willing to refine along the way."
- "Coming out of two days of conversation with your leadership team, your plan won't feel perfect. It's when you implement that plan over time that it's gonna get better."
- "Planning shouldn't just be a one-time event. It needs to become a rhythm."
- "I never see teams more energized than when they have gone through planning."
- "January really is a gift, and you have permission to slow down just enough to be intentional about the rest of the year."

Self-Assessment: How Are We Doing?

Before you start refocusing and planning for the year, determine who needs to be in the room for this planning to be effective. Then, set aside time to meet and answer the questions below. Don't forget to schedule quarterly check-ins to continue refining your process.

1. What's our vision for the future?
2. How can we reproduce health and momentum in every area (e.g., weekend services, leadership development, community engagement, etc.) of our church?
3. What do we need to start doing or do differently?
4. What do we need to stop doing?

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