



Video Book Summaries For Church Leaders

Okay the first thing we'll look at to help your church become more innovative is **ideation**, which is the process by which we plan and brainstorm. It's the boardroom meeting with the clean markerboard and lots of cups of coffee. Take 30 seconds right now to answer question #1 on your workshop print off.

Now it's very important to remember that prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit is vital to becoming innovative. You should be looking to join the work that the Holy Spirit is already doing in your area, not just trying to come up with new ideas. Here are 4 tips to help you get the most out of your ideation process.

First is to encourage the dreamers and let it be known that every idea is valuable. God has most likely gifted a couple people in leadership in your church with being dreamers and visionaries. Provide them with the freedom to express their creativity and dream big.

Second is to unleash the power of collaboration; that is, putting many minds together. While no one individual might be able to come up with a killer idea, having a group discussion allows for multiple perspectives and problem solving to work together to form that one awesome idea.

Third, provide your team with a creative atmosphere when brainstorming. You see, there's a reason why people go to coffee shops to work. The environment inspires productivity and creativity. Do the same for your brainstorming sessions. Provide a well-designed, creative space outside of the office, if it all possible, to have these meetings. And don't just stop with the room decor. Provide snacks, candy, and plenty of caffeine! It's also not a bad idea to have some sort of activity planned for when your brain begins to shut down like tossing a ball around or a round of paper basketball.

Lastly, give one person the authority to lead each brainstorming meeting. Have them be responsible for writing things on the board as well as controlling the flow of conversation. They can also direct the group to move onto other ideas or keep the current discussion going.



Churches that are innovative have to be intentional about it. It never just happens. But how exactly do churches start to think outside of the box and become defined by innovation?

action**steps**

Notes don't change anything, actions do.
So don't take notes, take actions!

Alright, the second way to help you lead an innovative organization is to **delegate**. Remember, it's not enough for you to be innovative. As a leader, you need to give your entire organization the chance to be innovative. Delegation is a big way in which you can do this. It's the key to any healthy organization. It prevents you from being a bottleneck and allows you to focus on what only you can do. Take 30 seconds right now and fill out question #5 on your workshop print off.

In order to delegate, you need to be willing to give up your authority and empower others. You literally need to work yourself out of your job. To do this requires a tremendous amount of confidence and selflessness which many leaders are not willing to possess.

Delegation shows that you realize that ministry is not a one man show. God has given a variety of gifts to those in your church and you don't have them all for a reason. Delegating allows you to empower others to accomplish tasks with their gifts in a way you never could, and in the process you can come up with innovative ideas much faster than if you tried to control everything.

The third way to lead an innovative organization is also important for the overall health as well. It's the **ability to adapt and make adjustments**. At the core, innovation is change and any organization that isn't flexible will never be innovative.

For some churches, change only happens when something stops working, but if you want to become an innovative church you need to learn to fix things before they break. Now, I know the saying says if it's not broke don't fix it, but a lot of the time things are broken but we are so used to them that we don't see them as being broken.

So here are 4 ways to help you know when things need to change:

1. Holy Spirit takes your peace away
2. When people start to complain and feel frustrated
3. When growth stops
4. Ask the right questions.

Go ahead right now and answer question #9 on your workshop and meet us back here in about 30 seconds for the 4th way to lead an innovative organization.

Alright now the fourth way is to understand the principle that **less is more when it comes to ministry**. Churches are great at adding programs but after some time none of them end up being done well. It's always better for churches to do a few things well than a lot of things poorly. Take the next 30 seconds to list out all your church's ministries for question # 13 under the LESS IS MORE section.

In order for your church to be innovative, you have to realize that no ministry comes without an expiration date and no ministry is worth holding onto if it's no longer being effective. When we do hold onto these programs, it leaves no room and no time for your church to be innovative.

Just like fruit trees need to be pruned so that more nutrients can go to the more fruitful branches, our churches need to determine what programs need to be cut so that more time, money, and energy can be poured into the effective programs and ministries. This means that at times you have to cut programs and events that do produce fruit so that more energy can be focused on innovating what is most fruitful. Look for yourself, most of the fastest growing churches in the country only focus their attention on being awesome at a few things.

And the fifth way that you can lead an innovative organization is by **learning how to best deal with whatever situations arise**. In our churches, there often seems like more barriers than there are solutions. Maybe that was your biggest reason for watching this video--in order to get some answers. Take 30 seconds fill out your top 3 barriers or difficult circumstances you are facing right now under question #20.

When your church is faced with tough situations or barriers, it provides you with the perfect opportunity to utilize innovation. Oftentimes, there is not a one size fits all answer. You must think outside of the box and change your perspective. Here are a couple examples of how you can use innovation to solve issues in your church.

Problem

Not enough seating
Not enough \$ to build larger building
Can't find musicians for a band

Solution

Move to multiple services
Start video campuses
Use a DJ

All churches face difficult situations where we feel frustrated, trapped, or stuck. Instead of focusing on the problem, focus on what the end result needs to be and find creative ways to accomplish it. Turn the negative situation into a positive one! If you as a pastor or church leader are right now dealing with difficult circumstances or barriers be encouraged, God can use this very thing to push you towards a breakthrough idea!