Beliefs vs. Convictions

“A belief is something that you hold. A conviction is something that holds *you*.”

Beliefs are things we give thought to, but that do not penetrate into action.

Beliefs become convictions when they direct the way we live our lives.

Mobilization that Transforms

Mission as joining God in accomplishing His global purpose.

When we mobilize children towards this type of mission, we develop for them a vision for the great story by and for God in order to describe the mission given to us.

We highlight how God has been working throughout all of human history and show specific strategies of mission as ways to complete the task, not the motivation to do the task.

Four Other Approaches to Mobilization

1. Mission as ­\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   * The basis is that believers should meet needs of all kinds. We think about all the needs Scripture tells us to meet.
   * What we do NOT want to do:
     + Show our children pictures of wounded and starving children and talk about how hopeless those children are.
     + Make a child feel guilty for not eating all his food by highlighting others who may be without.

* What we DO want to do:
* Talk about how each person is created in God’s image and how much He loves each one of them
* Emphasize that true hope is found in Jesus, who is at work redeeming people to Himself.
* The focus: God bringing forth His Kingdom in some of the poorest communities on earth and our joining with Him in extending His hope.

1. Mission as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

* The basis is an obligation to a divine command, either moral or missional.
* What we do NOT want to do:
* Demand that they to do things without explaining why we do them.
* Scare them with the eternal consequences for unreached peoples if we do not obey God’s command to go.
* What we DO want to do:
* Talk about these commands in the context of our relationship with Jesus and the joy of obedience.
* Emphasize God’s ability to accomplish His purposes without us, but His grace in inviting us to join Him in that work.
* The focus: walking in obedience out of a deep love for Jesus and a desire to see His plans fulfilled.

1. Mission as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   * The basis here is that we are obligated not just by a Biblical command, but also by the character or the uniqueness of who we are.
   * What we do NOT want to do:
     + Recount stories or examples of believers who have done great and daring things in a way that idolizes their own character more than God’s power working through them.
     + Place the destiny of others on them alone by overemphasizing their unique potential to deal with needs.
   * What we DO want to do:
     + Highlight how God used Bible characters and people in history, inviting them into His story.
     + Call out ways God has gifted our children for the purpose of bringing Him glory.
   * The focus: seeing our uniqueness as part of God’s plans for working through the Church to reach the nations. (Ephesians 2:10)
2. Mission as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   * The basis here is that you ought to love others more, be less selfish and more authentic. It also focuses on activism to bring about change.
   * What we do NOT want to do:
     + Describe actions in missions as exemplary in a way that infers that global workers and others belong to a higher subset of believers.
     + Exaggerate to children that the desire to have any material things is evil and makes us unworthy followers of Jesus.
   * What we DO want to do:
     + Balance discussions about how God blesses us so that we can be a blessing to others with God’s being a gracious Father who wants us to enjoy His good gifts.
     + Acknowledge that we are each called to our own unique journey where we will be asked to do different things and be given different blessings. Avoid a spirit of judging one another.
   * The focus: following Jesus with open hands, offering all our money, gifts, abilities, desires, and dreams to be used, as He needs, for His purposes.

A World Christian Child

A world Christian child….

* + can see God’s mission woven into everyday Bible stories
  + knows what people in other religions believe and how that compares to God’s Word
  + can find places like China, India, Uganda, and Peru on a world map
  + recognizes the names of global workers
  + can tell you about an unreached people group, where they live, and prays for them regularly
  + notices the children in their class that are different from everyone else and seeks out becoming their friend.
  + desires to use the money they earned as a way to support a missionary working among the unreached
  + is so excited about how God is working in the world that they can’t help but invite their friends and family into being a part of it with them
  + loves and worships Jesus as the Savior of the world
  + gazes up at a sky filled with twinkling stars and realizes God’s plan is infinitely bigger than his or her own backyard
  + dreams about being a part of God’s big story