



BEING A VISIONARY

Youth  
LEADER

## BEING A VISIONARY YOUTH LEADER



### **Welcome to this Reading Class!**

*We are confident that an insightful learning experience awaits you. We encourage you to be armed with adequate materials to make your own notes and chronicle the inspirations that will come to you as the Spirit of God ministers to you uniquely.*

*This study explains what it means to be visionary, the qualities of a visionary youth leader and how every youth minister can be a visionary leader.*

*Now let's get started.*

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to achieve the following:

- I. Identify qualities of a visionary youth leader.
- II . Identify where and how visions come.
- III. Translate visions into reality.
- IV. Use visions from the Word and the Spirit of God to influence and lead young people.

### **DEFINITION OF TERMS**

Before we go into the main discourse, we will consider the definitions of key terminologies to enhance your knowledge of their accurate meanings.

***Visionary:*** *Marked by foresight and imagination. Of, or relating to, or characterized by visions or the power of vision.*

***Youth:*** *Relating to, designed for, or consisting of young people.*

***Leader:*** *A person in the charge and one who convinces other people to follow.*



## THE VISIONARY YOUTH LEADER

**A** visionary youth leader is one that has the ability to see, think, and plan for the future. He is self-inspired to propel himself and the youth that he leads to the actualization of set goals and objectives, in line with the pictures he sees of their future. He also sees visions of his own service and separation to the Lord while equipping and empowering those he leads to take the right actions until the vision comes to fruition.



## TWO INGREDIENTS ARE NEEDED FOR VISION

Vision is very important in life. It refers to the act or power of seeing physically, mentally or spiritually. Everybody ends up somewhere in life but very few end up there on purpose. Having a vision gives you the necessary passion, emotion, motivation, direction and purpose to steer you in the right direction for the fulfillment of your goals and objectives.

So many people have visions of the future and what they seek to achieve. While some of these aspirations are good and for the benefit of themselves and others, some others are unfortunately towards some ill purpose. Whichever the case, visions stem from the power of imagination and conceptualization of a desired end. Now, with regard to the will and purpose of God in the earth today, Visions have two important origins which we will look at in detail below.

### I. Revelation of God's Word

God given visions come from the revelation of His Word. The Bible says where there is no vision, the people perish<sup>1</sup>. As one called to lead and build young people, you have to constantly get inspired information from God's Word. You need to listen to the Word repeatedly, and bury yourself in the study and meditation of it until you receive visions. The result is that when you bring God's Word to the young people, they too will receive visions. People perish not because the adversary is so powerful but because God's Word is not available to create the vision in their hearts. Without God's Word, God's people (at whatever age) will be subdued by the systems of the world instead of reigning over them.

<sup>1</sup>Proverbs 29:18



As you share the Word of God, from a place of vision, those you lead will know what to do with their lives, become emboldened and influence their spheres of

*The Word of God has content and power to build His image of life into the hearer*

contact. The Word of God is able to make them what it talks about with no limit as to what they can be and achieve even in their youth. The word is truth and visions are conceived where there is light<sup>2</sup>. If there is no revelation, there would not be a vision.

Having understood this, let's proceed to the next source of vision.

## **II. The Holy Spirit**

The second place visions come from is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. This also means the fullness of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit is in the business of raising visionary leaders; therefore your understanding of the work of the Holy Spirit and of Christ in you shapes you. When the Spirit of God is poured upon people, they become leaders; He brings vision and the revelation of God's Word to them. As you spend time to pray in the Holy Spirit, He brings visions to you. If you are praying and you have not seen visions then the praying is not done, because in the rearealm of the Spirit, you can always and only have what you see. Elijah told Elisha "if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so."<sup>5</sup> Until you see the vision, you cannot bring anything into the physical world;



the picture is first of all gotten from the realm of the Spirit before a physical manifestation. Visions are birthed in the place of intimacy with the Spirit of God.<sup>6</sup>, Visions speak of the works of God in your hearts, and that's the Holy Spirit.<sup>7</sup> The Word of God is light and the Holy Spirit is the one that floods your heart with God's Word until you see.

*Until you see the vision in the spiritual, you cannot bring anything into the physical*

<sup>2</sup>Psalm 119:105, <sup>3</sup>Psalm 119:130, <sup>4</sup>Ephesians 1:17, <sup>5</sup>2Kings 2:10, <sup>6</sup>Acts 2:17, <sup>7</sup>Ephesians 1:16-18 (IKJV, AMP)



As a Youth Leader, you need to be yielded to the leading and guidance of the Holy Spirit to keep your inspiration for the work of the ministry at an all-time high. With undivided attention on the ministry of the Spirit and the Word of God, you will have the revelation of Christ in your heart. The result is that you will talk more consciously about Jesus Christ in your meetings than about anything else. It is important that you mainly inspire the youth from the knowledge of Christ and not from acquired worldly knowledge.

### **UNDERSTANDING THE UNIQUENESS OF TODAY'S YOUTH**



Young people represent the future. Recent statistics show that those with ages ranging from 14-29, constitute the largest generation in history. The youths are one of the main agents of change and progress in the society and usually develop a personality that distinguishes them from generation to generation. The choices they make in their youth greatly affect what kind of adults they become in the future.

With the evolvement of society, today's youth have their lives embedded in mobile technology and social media which has its effects on their mental and emotional and spiritual well-being. It's important to understand that even though they are young, they can face real challenges just like the adults themselves. In other words, their youth doesn't make them immune to Satan's evil agenda to pollute and destroy the human race.

As a Youth minister, you are sent of God to provide them with the solutions and necessary guidance from God's word which they require to go through this stage of life, and you need to totally rely on the Holy Spirit for this. Due to the natural curiosity of young people for truth about different aspects of life, a visionary youth leader must be armed with the truth and power of God's word with undeniable proof of the relevance of Jesus Christ in today's world to help them fulfill their destiny in Him. This is why you should be able to see the unseen yourself and have a clear picture of how to guide the young people you are bringing up, into their God-given future.



## BEING VISIONARY

It's important to understand your role as a visionary youth leader and we will look at a few practical truths to point you in the right direction.

**I. Project into the Future.** Visioneering needs to be forward-looking. It means you are never really satisfied with where you are. You are always thinking of the next steps to take in building and helping the young people under your care. It is



like constantly painting the picture of your desire in your heart and working towards its achievement. The Bible talks about how a violent man shuts his eyes to devise evil things and speaks them forth<sup>8</sup>. You can do the same positively. Shut your eyes and envision what you want to achieve with this group of young people that you lead, then speak it forth and act accordingly. Some methods you can adopt include;

- Set relatable goals. These are soulwinning or ministry related goals they can easily accomplish within their spheres of contact. Understand that they might not be empowered to do as much as the adults but they can do a whole lot within their own circle of friends or associates.
- Innovate programs to help equip them and develop their personalities positively. These could be academic excellence seminars, youth skill acquisition programs etc.
- Keep them engaged. As we go through the different times and seasons of the year, be sure to have enough kingdom related activities to engage them. Have soulwinning plans for Easter, Christmas, their own school holidays and whatever holidays you observe in your city or nation.

**II. Keep the Purpose in Focus.** A vision gives you the reason for your actions, choices, hopes and objectives. It keeps you on course and is a constant reminder of why you are doing what you are doing in the first place. There are challenges you might face in leading young people like their own wrong choices or uncomely



behavior on their part. Remember, that we draw inspiration from our Lord Jesus Christ whose whole life was in pursuit of His purpose.<sup>9</sup> He never lost sight of who He was and what He came to do, despite the rejection he faced and the unbelief some of them responded with. He gloriously fulfilled His mission in attaining salvation for all men.



**III. Substantiate Your Goals.** Visioneering gives substance or reality to your set goals. In other words, it actualizes your visions into actions. So you set goals as inspired by the Spirit of God and with each success, you are propelled forward to bigger accomplishments.<sup>10</sup> In the next five years, what would have become of the young people that you are leading currently? Also be sure to make your plans to reach and penetrate the institutions or organizations where the youth in your society can be found, and always follow up with corresponding action.



**IV. Train Your Work Force:** Young people are often inspired by other young people like themselves. This is something you ought to leverage on as a youth minister. Keep training and investing in the youth whom you have groomed and brought up to imbibe the vision you have received of the Lord. The work of the ministry to which we have been called requires training at all levels<sup>11</sup>. Training causes us to grow up into the Lord in all things. The Lord Jesus trained the disciples before sending them out; he told them what to say and how to respond<sup>12</sup>. You need to do the same for your team. Teach them how to preach the word to the generation of youth out there by the power of the Holy Ghost with signs following.



<sup>9</sup>Proverbs 16:30, <sup>9</sup>John 6:38, <sup>10</sup>Habbakuk 2:2, <sup>11</sup>Ephesians 4:11-15, <sup>12</sup>Luke 10:1-16



## ACTION NOTES

Visions of the Spirit are birthed in the place of prayer, through meditation on the word and by being filled with the Spirit. A quick reminder of four things you should do to be a truly visionary youth leader or minister.

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1. Project into the Future- Be ever forward looking
  2. Keep the Purpose in Focus
  3. Substantiate Your Goals
  4. Constantly train your work force

*We trust you have been immensely blessed by this Reading Course and invite you to avail yourself of other insightful courses on our school website, all tailor made to enhance your spiritual growth and equip you with requisite knowledge, such that your results in ministry are pleasing to the Lord and evident for all to see.*

*We look forward to hearing the testimonies that will ensue from your application of the things that you have learnt.*

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