

Excerpts from *Teams That Thrive*

Understanding the Process

The process is simple. A healthy brainstorming session will allow: the freedom to create and generate new ideas, no matter how hare-brained, far-fetched, or completely over budget they are! These moments are for dreaming, exploring, building on ideas, creating connections between ideas, breaking your own “rules” and daring to risk failure. This *is not the time* to judge ideas (or each other), be negative or critical, formulate a plan, think about money, embrace fear, cling to reality, be logical or think of all the reasons why it *can't* work. That is for another time. The total focus needs to be on creative thinking only. *If planning and execution comes into play too early, all of your creative power will diminish. You, as the team leader, must guard this process vigorously!*

Usually, I will spend a lot of time on open brainstorming before I proceed to the practical phase. This might mean.....

Let me share with you an example of what it means to be aligned with a goal. Let's just say some of your goals include sharing God's salvation and helping God's people develop biblical life skills. Through the years I have used various curriculums. Most of them provide an unbelievable amount of teaching material each week. Every quarter I would order the teaching material, the box would arrive and I would hand the material over to my teachers and leaders. They would show up on Sundays and race to teach everything that was printed. They would feel like a failure if they couldn't and a success if they could. End of a sad story. If all that the teacher does is regurgitate the printed material, you are not aligned with your goals. Using the printed material, modifying it to share God's salvation and discussing life skills would be aligning the teaching to meet your goals. In this scenario here are some of the questions I would ask and teach my leaders to ask themselves:

1. Do the leaders have an opportunity to share Christ with the kids every week? If not, what should we do differently?
2. Do the leaders have the opportunity to lead a discussion on the biblical, practical application of the story every week? If not, what should we change?