

5 Tips for a Successful & Effective Vision Cast

The most powerful way to communicate the vision of A Church For Every Child is through Sunday Worship Gatherings. It is fundamental to cast the net as wide as possible, to sow seeds to the entire congregation, to see what God might want to stir up and grow in your midst on behalf of children and families experiencing foster care in your community. Let's get the word out to everyone!

Note: The Pastor and Advocate need to work together to create a cohesive plan to lead your church into their next steps! Here is the Vision Casting Sunday: Advocate Guide for best practices to create an environment most conducive to creating momentum!

It is fundamental to prepare for a Foster the City Vision Cast with the following two mindsets:

There is a crisis in foster care and we believe The Church is the answer!

We need to sound the alarm that there are more children entering foster care than there are families to welcome them. As followers of Jesus, we are called to love our neighbors, and children and families experiencing foster care are among our most vulnerable neighbors. We believe the Bride of Christ, empowered by the Spirit, can end the crisis in foster care. As followers of Jesus become aware of the need, and are moved by their compassion, we know this will lead to action that can impact generations to come - one child, one family at a time.

Everyone can do something!

Countless men and women have heard about the need and responded by opening up their homes to children in care, supporting a foster family in need of encouragement, or joining the Advocate team to make a difference at their church. For two thousand years, the church has led the way in caring for vulnerable children. And when Christ returns for His bride, that is where He will find us. How will you step into the stories of children and families experiencing foster care? Everyone can do something!

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Share the vision and mission of Foster the City

A Church For Every Child–Foster the City is a movement of churches committed to providing a loving home for every child in foster care.

Share how this mission relates to the Gospel

Helping children in need is motivated by how God has responded to us in our time of need. We see God's heart for the most vulnerable all throughout Scripture. Make it personal, balancing Biblical exposition with stories and an explanation of why you personally believe in this mission.

Share the model

Explain that there are multiple ways that you can get involved as a Foster Family, a Support Friend, or an Advocate. Make it local, sharing stories of kids waiting, numbers of kids in care in your area, connecting the long-term negative impact if kids are NOT welcomed into safe and loving homes.

Be honest and hopeful

Clearly communicate the needs of children in foster care, as well as the challenges that foster parents will face. While being careful not to minimize the hardships, be intentional to emphasize God's desire and ability to restore broken things.

Invite folks to follow the Spirit's prompting by taking their one next step

The "ask" of getting involved with the foster care system can feel overwhelming for many, so invite your congregation to attend an upcoming Interest Meeting to learn more about how to get involved.

Note: Your Church Resource Kit has multiple inspiring videos to choose from, if you'd like to share one during your Vision Cast.

Here are sample Vision Casts we hope will inspire and support you:

- Christine Ingebretson at Resonate Fremont (starts at 37:09 // ~4 min.)
- Britton Kendall at New Life Novato (starts 56:39 // ~11 min.)
- Gregg Katz, Living Stones Pastor's Conference, Northern Nevada (~3 min.)
- Ryan MacDonald, Calvary Chapel South Bay (starts at 15:40 // ~7 min.)