

How Can Coaching Help Me Accomplish My Vision?

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No one gets coaching just for the sake of getting coaching. We get coaching because we want to accomplish something. Coaching is a means to an end—it gets us where we want to go. So let's address two central questions: Where do you want to go? Then... how can coaching help you get there?



We all have somewhere we want to go. Maybe we want to change our lifestyle. Maybe we want to start a new church or ministry. Maybe we want to improve a particular skill set. What is it YOU want?

Sam was in charge of developing new small group leaders for his church. He was feeling the pressure to produce people ready to lead new groups, and found himself turning to people who had already led in other churches trying to convince them to take on one more thing. Sam knew there was more to developing leaders than just finding existing ones, but where should he even start? It would take forever to actually teach someone everything they needed to be a successful small group leader.

Carrie had a dream of starting a network of missional house churches. She had the vision. She knew what she wanted it to look like. But how could she get started? Who would she talk with? Who would she invite? How would she get a workable structure off the ground? After all, she'd never done this before.

Sam and Carrie both have a vision. And they both need a coach to help them accomplish that vision.

How can coaching help get you there?

Coaching is the central thread that runs throughout our ministry, knitting it together. It's the supporting wall, without which the roof doesn't hold. It's the scaffolding from which the hard work of construction is done.

Here's a less-metaphorical definition: Coaching is the process of coming alongside a person (or team) to help them discover God's agenda for their life and ministry, and then cooperating with the Holy Spirit to see that agenda become reality.

More and more studies are coming out that demonstrate that coaching makes a significant difference in effectiveness. In many cases, it can double your fruitfulness. What makes coaching so powerful?

- Provides encouragement for the journey
- Cultivates wisdom and strategic insights

- Discovers breakthrough opportunities
- Maintains focus on the truly important
- Transforms vision into reality

With coaching, people gain traction and momentum in life and ministry. A coach helps others find a way to get where they want to go. Coaching provides a sense of perspective. Through the art of focused listening, powerful questions, and strategic insights, a coach helps individuals to get moving and accomplish their goals.

From Better to Best

According to Andy Stanley in *The Next Generation Leader*, “You will never maximize your potential in any area without coaching. You may be good, you may be better than anyone else, but without outside input you will never be as good as you could be.”

But do you know what comes as a surprise to many people? Coaching isn’t just for beginners. The better you are, the more you need a coach. Even Michael Jordan needed a coach.

Michael Jordan is arguably the best basketball player who has ever played the game. All over the world people have heard of him. In rural China “Jordan rules” can be seen written on basketball backboards. Michael Jordan was a star, the best player on his team-- on any team. He could shoot three-pointers and do long slam dunks. Athletic shoes were named after him. He was a leader admired across the world. For the first six years of his professional career, he won scoring titles, defensive player of the year, and many other awards. Yet during those same first six years, he never won any championships. The team didn’t get far. Michael was a star, but not a champion.

At that point, Phil Jackson became the coach for the Chicago Bulls. Phil taught a system called the triangle offense, which requires trusting your team. Now Phil had played pro ball, but he didn't have the innate skill Jordan had. He didn't know basketball as well and he couldn't play nearly as well. But Phil had a way with the team, and he had a framework that allowed the team to work together within a structure: the triangle offense.

People called Phil the Zen master. He was known for bringing non-traditional methods into his coaching, and he aimed for a holistic experience with his players. He said to Michael, “You’re going to have to trust in me, and you’re going to have to trust in your team. You’ve been trying to do it on your own up until now.” Jordan bought into it, “Okay, I’m going to trust you and I’m going to try it. I’ll pass the ball to someone like Scotty Pippen, who isn’t as good as me.”

The team took a turn. They began winning. They won six championships in the early 90’s. They became a dynasty. Once they finally started functioning as a team, once Michael Jordan

put his trust in a coach, the Bulls were able to make history. They accomplished all they wanted and more. Jordan was a hero as the Bulls went on to win six championships.

Yet Michael never won any championships until he got the right coach-- Phil Jackson-- and until Phil convinced him to trust his team. He was trying to do it all on his own before.

It doesn't matter how good you are-- you can't do it on your own. Many pastors and denominational leaders don't think they need coaching. But the fact of the matter is that you can be the best, you can be the Michael Jordan of ministry, but you won't become a champion until you get a coach and until you learn to develop and trust your team. You might have an MDiv or a DMin. You might know more than many of your coaches. But if you want to be a champion, you need to get a coach and you need to trust and develop a team.