

**Title:** WestPark Values: Part 4, Missional Engagement and Next Generation.

**Speaker:** Kevin Norcross

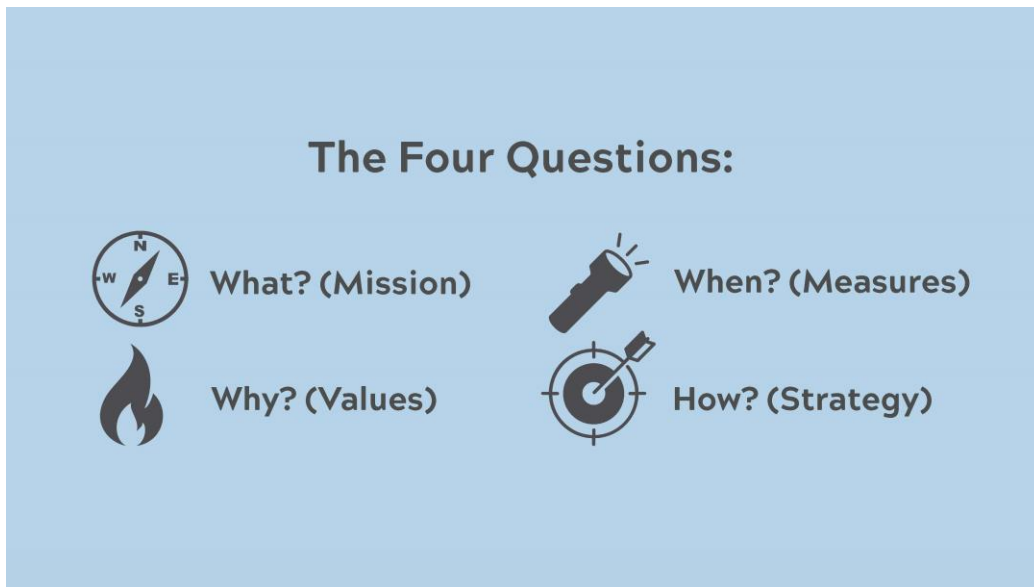
**Passage:** Multiple

**Big idea:** Local/Global Missions and Next Generation ministry are both super-duper important!



We are continuing to work through our series on WestPark’s Values and vision clarity because the clearer our vision, the more effective we will be.

Charles shared the first week that a clear vision should answers these four questions:



Our mission statement is “Everyday people on a journey together pursuing Christ”.

Our strategy, we call the P.A.T.H. It’s akin to a flashlight, because it shows us the path we take, where we go, what we need to do to accomplish our mission, how we should answer someone who is looking for their next steps.

- P**rioritize relationships.
- A**ttend church.
- T**ake time to serve and give.
- H**unger to know Christ.

Our values are like a flame, that empowers and energizes us. It is what people experience when they come to WestPark. We are going to continue to unpack our values over the next few weeks.

Our five values:

- Active faith
- Cultural diversity
- Servant leadership
- Next generation
- Missional engagement

Values reflect what we hope people will experience, see, and feel, and what they will notice when they attend WestPark.

I get the privilege of overseeing our Next Generation and Outreach ministries and get to unpack our values of Next Generation and Missional Engagement.

This will not be a biblical study but will be more like a talk about the purpose of what we do.

I will be inviting the various ministry leaders to come up and explain their ministries to you, giving you the inside look at why we do what we do. Then we will spend some time praying for each ministry area.



We take part in many things here at WestPark both locally and globally.

We have a God given mission to reach beyond the city of London and to have a global impact. Scripture is clear that missions should be a priority to us:

Romans 9:17, "I raised you up for this very purpose, that I might display my power in you and that my name might be proclaimed in all the earth."

We pray that the name of Jesus would be famous not only in London, but around the world.

Isaiah 66:19, "I will set a sign among them, and I will send some of those who survive to the nations, and to the distant islands that have not heard of my fame or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory among the nations."

Matthew 28:19, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit"

We are all called to be missions minded for all nations.

A missions minded person is committed to ...

- Think globally
- Act globally
- Pray globally

Here are some details about Global missions at WestPark:

- GO means Global outreach.
- GO Partners are missionaries that WestPark supports.

- We currently support 26 GO Partners which includes both singles and couples.
- Our GO Partners serve in various parts of the world focusing on various aspects of ministry.
- There are people serving in China, England, Spain, Romania, Middle East, and Canada.
- Their ministries include:
  - Evangelism
  - Church Planting
  - First Nations
  - Campus Ministry
  - Leadership Development
  - Discipleship
  - French Ministry
  - Prison ministry

We have a map on the wall in the auditorium with prayer guides from our GO Partners. Feel free to pick one up and pray for these GO Partners.

Many people have done great things around the world through WestPark. Many people have gone into full time missions from WestPark. By giving financially to WestPark, you are supporting and engaging in missions.

We also have other ways of doing missions here at WestPark. We have a partnership with a church in Cuba. Rather than travelling to many different places, we are building relationship with a local church in Cuba called Templo Bautista. We also have different language groups here at WestPark, Chinese, Spanish, and Arabic. People are coming to London from all over the world we want to seize this opportunity to do missions work right here in London. You don't have to get on a plane. It is happening right here. We provide Conversational English classes for the community. We also have Migrant workers ministry at 3 locations across Ontario.

It is our desire that WestPark would be a training ground for people to go out and do missions full time. God might be stirring your heart for full time missions, and we want to walk alongside you and help you figure that out.



We want to be the Light of Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:6, "Let light shine out of darkness"

We have our 6 big outreaches in the year and each of the various ministries have their own outreach strategies

1. Family day - be generous and get people in the building
2. Easter - share the gospel

3. Canada Day - fun event and connect with people
4. Fall Kick off - promote the programs and get people involved
5. Drive Thru Nativity - share the gospel through acting and scripture
6. Christmas Eve - share the gospel



I started seeing that I had a heart for ministry as a Jr high and was confident at the age of 16 that I wanted to go to Bible college and do full time ministry.

When I was in grade 12, I was at a small church in Scarborough, and they had a youth group with Jr. and Sr. high together and it was challenging. I asked if I could volunteer to lead the Jr High ministry on a separate night and surprisingly ... they said yes.

So, in my grade 12 year, I would take the public transit for one hour after school on Tuesdays and run this youth ministry with about 20 students and I loved it. That was my start and I have been involved in youth ministry ever since, and after we got married, Kylie joined me.

We did it as a team, and when we had kids, we dragged them along with us. God used us to have an impact on quite a large number of youths. We ran weekly youth meetings, retreats, outreaches, and preached many sermons to youth and we have some great stories.

We saw successful events reaching hundreds and some not so successful events.

Many studies have been done about how so many youth are falling away from the church.

Here is what the research was saying:



Only one in three Canadian young adults who attended church weekly as a child still do so today. Of the young adults who no longer attend church, half have also stopped identifying themselves with the Christian tradition in which they were raised.

One big realization was that this is not a young adults ministry problem, a youth ministry problem, kids ministry problem, parents problem, or church problem. It is an everybody problem.

I began to realize the importance of the different ministries working together along with parents to better equip these kids/youth/young adults for a fruitful adult life serving Christ.

The solution is not a one time conversation at the end of your son or daughter's bed as they pack for college or university. It is a goal and process with many conversations that start when they are in kids' ministry all the way through to young adults.

So, this is our approach at WestPark:

### We create opportunities

We create opportunities for the kids, youth, and young adults to ask tough questions and wrestle with their faith. We encourage families to have this environment at home. Let them wrestle with it now while they are in your home, rather than waiting until they are out on their own without support.

This is a team effort of church and family. Our ministry is not just to the kids, youth, and young adults, but it is to the families as well. We want to be a resource for you as parents as well as a resource for your kids.

### This is a team effort

### Experience God

We will create an atmosphere and opportunities for the next generation to take ownership of their relationship with Christ and experience God. We pray that it would not be just to appease their parents or church leaders, but that they would have a genuine and unique relationship with Christ. We are dedicated to having a balance of age based ministry and doing things together as a families.

We have a lead pastor, elder board, staff, and church leaders who care deeply about the next generation. I am thankful that Charles, our board, and leadership cares deeply about the next generation. Here at WestPark, kids, youth, and young adult ministries do not take a back seat. These ministries are so important and highly valued.

### Leadership Cares

### Reach and Retain

We will not just reach the next generation but work hard to retain them. Studies show that many youth fall away from church in transitions to the next ministry age group, the biggest fall out is kids to grade 6.

Kimberly, Bill, Ben, Mikayla, Corey and I meet together and strategize how we can do these transitions well. We work as one team, and strive to pass the baton on well.

Our strategy is that they will be deep in community through small groups. They are in a small group setting from little kids all the way through Jr. and Sr. High.

As they move away to college or university, our prayer and encouragement is that they will find a small group and continue on in their journey with that support. We want them to be so used to it that they will seek it out and find it.

### Biblical Community

We are far from perfect, but we are working really hard to do this well. Kimberly, Bill, Ben, Mikayla, Corey care so deeply for their ministry areas and they are really good at what they do.

For the remainder of this service, each ministry leader will come and share about their ministry, then we will pray for them and their ministry. To hear about each ministry, watch the service [HERE](#).

1. Carole Verdun, Director of Connection and Local Outreach.
2. Corey Brown, Pastor of Worship Ministries/ Young Adults Ministries
3. Bill Dakin, Mikayla Dakin, Ben McVittie, our Youth Ministries Team
4. Kimberly Enns, Director of Children Ministries and Adult Life Groups

Please continue to pray for these ministries, as our children grow and become leaders of the church.

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If you have zero connection with the kids and youth in your church now, they will have the same amount of connection with the church you lead when they are adults.

David Sawler

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