

venture 1:9

A 5-Hour Strategic Planning Day with House of Refuge Sunnyslope

The Context:

- Venture 1:9 committed to work with House of Refuge Sunnyslope (HRS) who wanted to begin the strategic planning process.
- HRS set up a version of the strategic planning model described in the Venture 1:9 downloadable resource: [5 Steps to Forming & Leading Your Strategic Planning Team](#).
- The question to answer was, “Where is God calling House of Refuge Sunnyslope to go?” (“What does that place look like?”, “What is happening in that place?”, etc.)
- HRS created a strategic planning team of 7 leaders and spent 21 days (individually) praying, fasting, asking for God’s direction, and writing/reflecting on what they sensed God was saying.
- That all led to “the” Strategic Planning Day.
- On Strategic Planning Day, Venture 1:9 spent 5 hours with the HRS team and led them through the following process.

The Day:

- 10:00 – 10:30 – People settled; opening devotional thought; prayer.
- 10:30 – 11:00 – The HRS team drew their pictures individually, on large sheets of paper on the walls.
- 11:00 – 12:15 – Each team member shared their picture and other team members asked only questions of clarification.
- 12:15 – 12:45 – Lunch
- 12:45 – 01:15 – The remaining HRS team members shared their pictures (and answered clarifying questions).
- 7 pictures have now been drawn and explained.

- 01:15 – 01:45 – 2 teams of 3 were created. Each team (together as a team) was instructed to spend additional time praying and reflecting on 3 of the pictures (none of which were their own). They were then told to create 1 clarifying picture, from those 3.

During this time, the HRS ED (who was not in a group) also spent time creating 1 picture – what she sensed God was saying to her about the future of the org, drawing from EVERYTHING that had been drawn and shared up to that point. Now, HRS was down to 3 pictures – each group's and the ED's.

- 01:45 – 02:15 – Each group shared their 1 picture while the ED continued to listen and add some of what they were sharing (things that stood out to her, promptings from the Lord, etc.) to her picture. Now, there is 1 picture remaining, the ED's.
- 02:15 – 03:00 – The HRS ED shared her 1 picture (a compilation of the entire day) and great team discussion followed. Next steps were identified on how to begin to move the organization from, “Where are we now?” to, “Where God is calling us to go?” (Referred to as moving toward the Land of B – from point A.)

Additional Points:

- HRS now clearly understands their Land of B (their land flowing with milk and honey). This, however, was just the beginning of the process and much work remains.
- The HRS team will meet many additional times to continue clarifying and identifying how to specifically advance toward the vision. This will involve developing mile markers, measurables, goals, tactics, timelines, and more.
- The Strategic Planning Day ended with the entire team laying hands on the ED and praying for her and the future work of the organization.
- HRS then took a few pics!

This was a very special and spiritual day. After seeking God for 21 days, the HRS team was ready to engage the Strategic Planning Day. They sought God and He revealed Himself in a clear way. ED, Julie Supplee shared: "This strategic planning process was amazing and pointed our team to consensus; it resulted in the foundation for our strategic plan for the years ahead."

