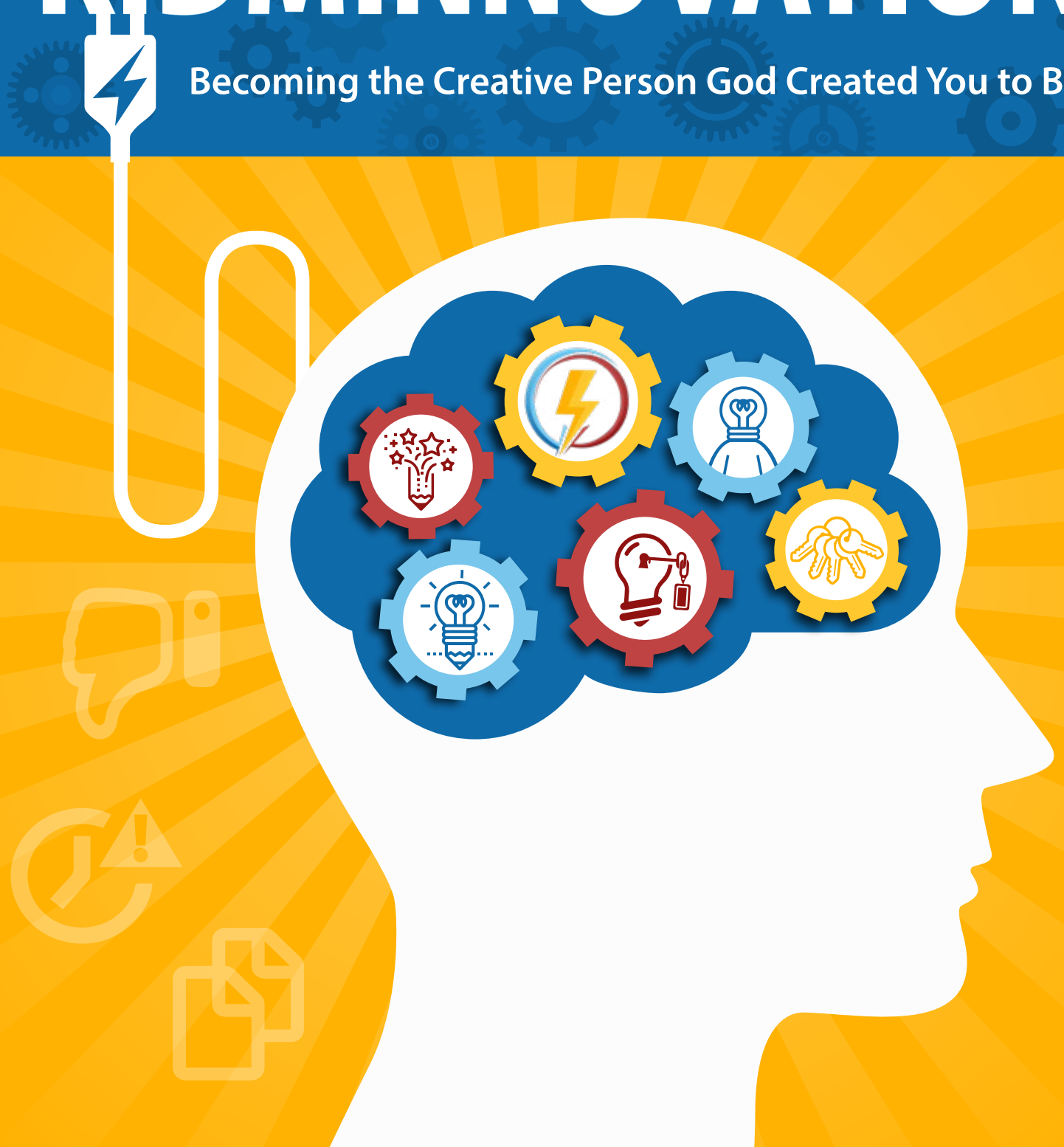


KIDMINNOVATION

Becoming the Creative Person God Created You to Be



BY BRIAN DOLLAR
www.HighVoltageKids.com

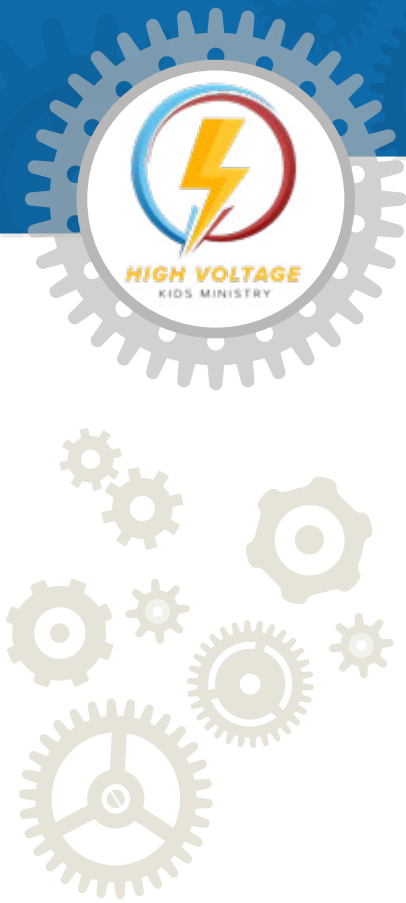


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Introduction



I hear it all the time from so many kids ministry leaders...

"How do you guys do what you do?"

"I could never do that!" "I'm not creative."

"I wish I could be more creative, but I don't have it in me."

"Why are some people creative and others aren't?"

If I had a nickel for every time I've heard those statements or questions, I would be a very wealthy man. So many people look at what I have done with High Voltage Kids Ministry Resources and feel that they could never achieve that. Too many Kidmin (kids ministry) leaders sell themselves short thinking that creativity is some mystical ability that few are blessed with.

The truth is *everyone* has some level of creative potential.

A large part of the problem is that there is an air of mystery and mysticism around the creative process. Because people assume and reinforce the idea that some have creative potential and others don't, those who do harness their potential and work through the creative process become all the more "different."

“THE TRUTH IS EVERYONE HAS SOME LEVEL OF CREATIVE POTENTIAL.”



Introduction

In Kidmin today, I see so many people falling short of their creative potential. Innovation is happening in *some* churches, ministries, and pockets of the Kidmin universe. But, as a whole, we have been reluctant to embrace the idea of *every* Kidmin leader as an innovator.

I believe the time is coming when every Kidmin Leader will believe in themselves enough to be able to tap into the innovator that lives in each of them. When that happens, we will change the world!

It's time for a revolution of what I am calling "Kidminnovation" (Kidmin + Innovation). **A "Kidminnovator" is simply this: someone whose heart and mind is open enough to allow God to birth something in them that will change their community!**

Now, understand something: I'm not asking all of you to start writing your own curriculum or to go start your own ministry resource company. When I speak of innovation in Kidmin, I am talking about taking a fresh look at what you are doing in your churches and ministries, evaluating what is working and what isn't, and allowing God to lead you on a journey to develop *your* vision, *your* strategy, for *your* ministry.

So, how about it? Are you ready? Let's start the Kidminnovation Revolution!

“A “KIDMINNOVATOR” IS SIMPLY THIS: SOMEONE WHOSE HEART AND MIND IS OPEN ENOUGH TO ALLOW GOD TO BIRTH SOMETHING IN THEM THAT WILL CHANGE THEIR COMMUNITY!”

CREATIVITY KILLERS



*AVOID THESE
3 CREATIVITY KILLERS
"AT ALL COST"...*

Procrastination



pro·cras·ti·na·tion

prəˌkrastəˈnāSHən,prō-/

noun

1. the action of delaying or postponing something.

Nothing will kill your ability to be creative like procrastination.

The ability to be spontaneous is a must in children's ministry. You never know when an illustration might go wrong or when the Lead Pastor might decide to throw in a couple of extra "in closing" statements. You have to be able to think on your feet and keep the kids' attention even when you weren't prepared to do so. Spontaneity is a gift, but it can also become a crutch. Sooner or later, spontaneity can become a disease that eats our best work and erodes our credibility with volunteers, parents, and staff members.

As I've talked to hundreds of people involved in kids' ministries across the country, I've observed that there's an epidemic of procrastination. We excuse it in all kinds of ways, but all our reasons lead to the same result. Yes, you have to be quick and spontaneous at times, but many children's ministry leaders believe their enthusiastic personalities and the spontaneity of their ministry give them a license to walk in unprepared. They try to get by, doing the least they can do.

And it shows.

How do I know this is true? I wrote a lesson about Easter and put it on our website. I hoped other children's pastors and leaders could use it. After Easter, I realized 50 had been downloaded between Good Friday and Easter—and some were downloaded as late as 10:00 on Easter morning! That doesn't even give enough time to read the lesson before presenting it to the kids.

“NOTHING WILL KILL YOUR ABILITY TO BE CREATIVE LIKE PROCRASTINATION.”

Procrastination



Correct me if I'm wrong, but I don't think Easter sneaks up on anybody. Every person in church leadership knows Easter Sunday is one of the two most important days in the church calendar, along with Christmas. If it were that important, wouldn't you expect ministry leaders to make sure they're prepared?

I've heard all kinds of excuses—and I'm probably more acutely aware of them because I've used some of them myself. Here are the most common:

- Full-time kids' pastors have told me, "My week is so full of other church assignments that I don't have time to prepare my lesson until Saturday night or Sunday morning." (But I get Twitter posts, YouTube links and Facebook updates asking me to send them lives in "Candy Crush" from these same guys all week long.)
- Volunteer kids pastors have said, "I work all week, so I don't have time to prepare for kids church before Saturday night." (I am in awe of the fact that they're working a full-time job and leading this ministry, but I always ask one question of them: "Did you watch any television this week?" They usually say, "Yes." Are those programs more important than the spiritual development of their kids?)
- Super-spiritual leaders have confidently told me, "Brian, I don't believe in preparing ahead because that doesn't allow the Spirit to lead me." (Really? So you're telling me that the God who knew everything about your kids before time began couldn't lead you to prepare ahead of time? Come on. Get real.)

There's no excuse for procrastination in preparing for children's ministry. God has given us an incredible privilege and responsibility to lead kids on their spiritual journey to becoming life-long followers of Jesus Christ.

Someday, we'll give an account for our motives and actions. I don't want to stand before God on that day and tell Him, "I would've been more intentional about my ministry to Your children, God, but I had more important things to do."

Procrastination



Procrastination kills creativity. When you are always working last minute, you are under so much pressure that you rarely will be able to think straight enough to come up with any coherent and effective ideas.

A big key in the success of High Voltage Kids Ministry is that we are never doing the preparation phase in a last-minute fashion. We plan ahead— always. We plan out the entire year of teaching series topics a year in advance. We are always writing and working months out from when something is to be presented. It's always up for change, but by working ahead, we are able to look for creative ideas along the way.

You might be thinking, "Well, sure it's easy for you to prepare and work ahead. You're at the big church with a large staff." Nope! Yes, I am at a larger church than most. But, I don't have a big staff. We have two Kids Pastors and a part-time administrative assistant for 700+ kids. We've been doing this for fifteen years. I did the first four volumes of curriculum when it was *just me*.

You can do it! Work ahead! Prepare.

Don't let procrastination kill your creativity!

Think about it...

- 1 What are some reasons a lot of Kidmin leaders don't prepare well? Which are good reasons, and which are excuses? How can you tell?
- 2 What are the benefits of the preparation phase? Are these benefits worth the effort? Why or why not?
- 3 What changes do you need to make in your planning and preparation that will enhance your ability to be creative? When will you make this happen?

Duplication



du·pli·cate

'd(y)ōoplə,kāt/

verb

1. make or be an exact copy of.

I started out in Kids Ministry as a single 20-year-old. When you are a young adult (with no children of your own) tasked with the assignment of leading children in their spiritual journey, you feel like a fish out of water. You aren't sure what works and what doesn't work—what will be effective and what will fail miserably.

So, I made a huge mistake that many others in kids ministry make: I decided to just copy what others were doing. I opted for duplication rather than innovation.

I remember visiting a neighboring church for a Halloween outreach called "Hell House." In this event, groups of people are taken on a guided tour through many scenes depicting sinful, destructive behaviors: drug use, suicide, murder, abortion, hatred, and other kinds of sins. It was powerful and effective. The lives of many teenagers and adults had been changed as a result of this dynamic, interactive outreach.

A few months later I was planning for our Vacation Bible School. We were studying the Life of Moses, and I needed something to take it over the top. So, I made a classic error. I just simply thought back to the last big event I had attended and figured, "I'll just do *that!*" I wondered, *What if I do my own version of Hell House? What if I take this idea and apply it to Moses and the Exodus? This will be great!*

Now, of course I could never duplicate it *exactly*. I didn't want them to be upset at me. So, I just changed it a bit and suddenly "Hell House" became "The Plagues Tour."

Duplication



The concept of “The Plagues Tour” was to give the kids a real-life experience of what it was like for the Egyptians to go through each of the plagues that God sent upon them. We would divide the kids up in groups, have one of our leaders be the “Tour Guide”, then lead them down our kids ministry hallway from room to room. Each room would have a special “real-life” plague experience. *This is going to be great!* I thought. *The kids will never forget the plagues, now!*

So, I gathered up all the supplies I would need, trained the team on what to do, and the day came for “The Plagues Tour.” I wanted to do the tour with the first group so I could get the first-hand experience of what it was like for the kids to have these amazing “God Moments”.

We entered the first room. The kids loved it as they watched the little illusion we had planned for them. We “miraculously” made clear water turn red to symbolize the Nile River turning to blood. You should have heard the kids. “Wow! How did they do that?” I was getting so excited. This was the cleverest idea I had ever had.

We went to the next room that represented the plague of frogs. We had purchased hundreds of tiny plastic frogs from Oriental Trading Company and had a CD of frog sound effects going. The kids loved it. They also loved the next two rooms that had sound effects of flies and gnats to signify those plagues. Things were going so well!

But, that’s when things took a major turn. The kids didn’t react so well to the fake cow we had lying in the next room to signify the plague of dead livestock. They were pretty freaked out when we went into the room where the people had been struck with the plague of boils. I thought the leaders had done a great job with the theatrical makeup making those boils look realistic. Apparently, they were a little *too* realistic. The kindergartners were a little scared.

And, then things went horribly horribly wrong. I had made the mistake of putting several junior high boys in charge of the next plague room—the plague of hail. We had several junior high boys sitting atop ladders with hundreds of ping-pong balls in trash bags. As soon as the doors opened, the boys starting pelting the kids with

Duplication



ping pong balls. They were like wanna-be snipers, and this was their moment. They smacked one of the girls right in the eye. She was bawling, while the rest of the kids started screaming and running out of the room. I finally got the junior high boys to stop, but I never got the kids back. They were all freaked out and crying.

It didn't get much better through the plague of locusts room and the plague of darkness room. Seems that most young children are actually scared of the dark—go figure. But, it all came to a disastrous end when we entered the last plague room—the death of the first-born. I had one of my female leaders in full Egyptian period costume with a baby doll in her lap. The kids walked in as the leader was screaming, “My baby is dead! My baby is dead!” The children refused to go in the room and didn't stop crying for twenty minutes.

Needless to say, the next few days were very busy as I had meetings and phone calls with parents—some curious, some angry—wanting to know what in the world I was thinking when I came up with this idea. Parents are so unreasonable sometimes. 😊

This classic mistake of choosing duplication over innovation is not one that is unique to me. This phenomenon happens quite often in the church world. We go to a conference, attend a seminar, watch a YouTube video, or read a blog as someone shares a great concept or strategy. We think, *What an amazing idea!* Then we run straight back to our church and try to duplicate it.

We hear reports of what God is doing in the church down the street or the “hot church” in our denomination, and we try to chase their ideas instead of asking God for His ideas. We do this for a lot of reasons:

Duplication is easier

When we opt for duplication, we avoid the tough work of seeking God for a vision and strategy to grow our ministry. It's a lot easier to steal someone else's “good idea” than invest time seeking a “God idea.”

Duplication



Duplication is faster

It doesn't take any time at all to get plenty of cool ideas from church leaders in every kind of ministry. Search the internet for the words "children's ministry growth ideas," and you'll get over 19 million hits. There are books upon books and conferences upon conferences that provide a ton of great ideas.

Don't get me wrong. There's absolutely nothing wrong with books and conferences. I'm a firm believer in attending conferences, networking with other ministries, and reading great books. However, books and conferences can easily become a substitute for seeking God and trusting Him for guidance and creativity.

You see, duplication may be easier and faster, but the problem is...

Duplication rarely produces eternal results

Jesus told His followers, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:33). What do we "seek first"? Is it conferences, books, message boards, and ministry networks, and then do we go to God only when all those things begin to lose their punch? Instead, we should begin on our knees, seeking for His idea that will change our lives and ministry.

In kids ministry today, I see so much duplication going on. Innovation is happening in *some* churches, ministries, and pockets of the Kidmin universe. But, as a whole, we have been reluctant to embrace the idea of every Kidmin leader as an innovator.

Let's stop duplicating. Let's start innovating.

Duplication



Think about it...

- ① Have you ever fallen into the trap of merely duplicating what someone else has done in ministry? Did this benefit you or your ministry? Why, or why not?
- ② What is the core reason you make the mistake of “duplication” in ministry?
- ③ In what ways does duplication hurt your ability to be creative?

Disqualification



dis·qual·i·fi·ca·tion

disˌkwäləfiˈkāSHən/

noun

1. The action of disqualifying or the state of being disqualified.

This “Creativity Killer” is probably the most rampant. It is the one that takes down so many Kidmin Leaders and keeps them from reaching their creative potential. Some find it so easy to just immediately disqualify themselves and say, “I can’t do it! I’m just not wired that way!” They allow themselves to believe the six-word lie that I despise. Here are the six words: “I’m just not a creative person.”

Many Kidmin Leaders sell themselves short when it comes to their ability to think creatively and innovate. They have decided that God only gifted a few key leaders to be able to create and innovate. We have turned the innovative process into some mysterious, spooky, hocus pokus type of activity.

Some of you have yourself convinced that I must have my own personal “bat cave” type lair where I receive downloads from the angel of Innovative Kids Ministry—and you have no hope of ever getting access. I can tell you right now: I have no such cave. 😊

I have news for you: *You* can be an innovator. How do I know? Because you are *child of God!*

We serve a creative God with unlimited creative ability! Even the most naturally innovative and creative minds are finite. The term finite means “having bounds or limits; not infinite; measurable.” But God is infinite. He is “far above all,” not limited by any boundaries at all. When we draw only on our own creative resources, it’s like drinking from a thimble instead of the Great Lakes.

Disqualification



You were *born* for creativity and innovation! The most innovative people I know? *Kids!* It's true! When we were kids we could turn the most commonplace stuff into toys that would keep us occupied for hours.

Do you remember when you were a kid and you found one of those cardboard paper towel holders? Without any thought or effort you could turn it into...

- A telescope
- A megaphone
- A sword
- A drumstick
- Whatever!

When you were a kid, all you needed was a cardboard box and a stick. You were born a creative innovator. Somehow, we allowed society to suppress our creative juices and we began to be conformed to the mainstream. We are afraid of getting outside the box. We allow fear to dominate our minds and hearts and we never become the Kidminnovators God wants us to be!

Many Kidmin Leaders never innovate simply because of *fear*. Fear of failure! Fear of criticism! Innovation takes courage! Every leader has to face very real fears. And, it's important to understand: Courage isn't the absence of fear, but the willingness to take action in the face of fear.

I say it's time for Kidmin leaders to stop allowing the enemy to use *fear* to keep them from stepping into what God has planned for them. Stop allowing fear to keep you from taking the leap into the world of Kidminnovation.

Disqualification



I believe the time is coming when every Kidmin Leader will believe in themselves enough to be able to tap into the innovator that lives in each of them. When that happens, we will change the world!

Think about it...

- ① Was there a time in your life when you were much more creative than you are now? What changed? How did it affect you?
- ② Fear of failure is often at the root of “disqualification.” What are some ways fear cripples you and keeps you from being the innovator God wants you to be?
- ③ What are some steps you can take to fight those fears?

BECOMING A KIDMINNOVATOR



*HOW TO UNLEASH
THE CREATIVITY
WITHIN YOU...*

What Does a Kidminnovator Look Like?



① Kidminnovators question everything.

Innovators are constantly questioning the status quo. They don't settle for "what's always been done." They never say, "That's the way we've always done it." They are constantly questioning methods, practices, and strategies to ensure they are taking the best possible approach.

Be willing to question *everything* in your ministry—even the things that you think are going wonderfully! You say, "Wait! I thought I was supposed to live by the motto 'If it ain't broke don't fix it!'" Here's the problem with that: In ministry, often something has been broke long before we ever get the memo.

If you don't have a habit of questioning the methods and strategies in your ministry, you may be so oblivious that something may be broken and you're convinced it's never been better.

Not too long ago, I began to truly poke and prod and question the effectiveness of our Sunday morning kids experience. Now, understand, we've never had more kids attending than we do now. We have kids pastors from all over the country travel to our church to see and learn what we are doing. If I went by those indicators alone, I never would have questioned anything we were doing.

But, I began to question and evaluate – and without going into all the details I came to the conclusion that our Sunday morning experience was broken. Everyone else was convinced that it had never been better, but I knew it needed an overhaul. So, I put together a team of strategists and thinkers to help me redesign everything from the ground up. Six months later, we launched our new approach—and it *rocked*!

If I hadn't been willing to question, I would never have gotten the ministry to that place. Kidminnovators are consummate questioners. Question *everything*!

What Does a Kidminnovator Look Like?



Too often, we don't question or evaluate because we are afraid of what we will find. We don't want to face the fact that it might be time for an overhaul. Don't allow yourself to do this! *Question* everything!

② Kidminnovators look everywhere for ideas and inspiration

A great idea might be found in a commercial, a movie, on-line—absolutely anywhere. The key is: always have your “finder” turned on. Always trying to sense it in whatever setting you are in.

③ Kidminnovators are bored by duplication.

They can't stand doing the same thing the same way for long. They are constantly looking for new ways, better ways to accomplish God's purposes for their kids ministry.

④ Kidminnovators take more criticism.

Innovators take more criticism because they are blazing a trail, challenging the status quo, and making others uncomfortable. They take more criticism because they are sticking their neck out and “going first.”

Want to avoid criticism in ministry? Don't do anything new! Copy what's already a success and you'll never be criticized—but you also probably won't make an eternal difference either.

⑤ Kidminnovators make more mistakes.

They make more mistakes because they are trying something that hasn't been done before. If the fear of failure and making mistakes is what has kept you from innovating, understand this: Failure is “part of the deal!” You're going to fail. You will either fail when you try something new—or you will fail to ever try anything new! I would rather be known for the former rather than the latter!

What Does a Kidminnovator Look Like?



You might look at me and say, “He’s never made the mistakes I have. He’s never blown it like I have!” Are you kidding me? We’ve *all* made mistakes. I wrote the book on making mistakes. No, literally—I wrote the book. [“I Blew It!”](#) 😊

The difference is that Kidminnovators study their mistakes. Don’t waste a great failure. Study it. Dissect it. Find out why it happened and where you went wrong. Then, apply what you learned to your next innovation.

⑥ Kidminnovators are constantly looking for clues in their culture.

You had better understand kid culture in kids ministry. The older I get, the more I ask questions. “What’s hot? What are the current trends? How do kids think?” I’ve been getting this for free for many years because of the ages of my own two children, Ashton and Jordan. My kids have left kids ministry and are now in student ministry. I now have to work harder than ever to find out what kid culture is all about.

Kidminnovators realize that context and culture drive ministry, not merely what some other ministry or church is doing.

⑦ Kidminnovators value those who will tell them the hard truth.

Innovators want their innovation to *work*. They don’t surround themselves with “yes men” who will tell them “you are the greatest, most creative person ever.” They want to know if they are thinking wrong. They want to know if their idea isn’t going to fly.

Kidminnovators surround themselves with those who will tell them the truth, even when it’s not comfortable.

What Does a Kidminnovator Look Like?



8 Kidminnovators need administrative people around them to help make ideas a reality

The fact is, Creative people tend to not be the most organized people you've ever met. Often, true innovators will get another idea while trying to flesh out their previous idea. This often leads to abandoned projects. Not all innovators are successful implementers. They need those who are detail oriented to help them get the ideas moving.

9 Kidminnovators are intensely driven.

The idea of doing something that has never been done fires innovators up. They inspire others with their burning passion. People rally around an innovator that has a passion for something that's never been done. On the other hand, they also can make their team tired—because they are always on to the next idea. Learn to find your balance.

10 Kidminnovators innovate from a desire to make a difference.

It's not about coming up with the "next big thing" that everyone will want to buy. It's not about packaging or branding. It's about making the difference in the lives of the kids and families of your community. It's about souls.

Why am I writing a book about innovation for children's ministry leaders? There are over 6,700 people groups in our world who have never heard the name of Jesus. That's millions and millions of kids. Somebody is going to have the idea that enables us to reach them. It may as well be YOU!

Why am I talking about innovation? Because we have to do this! We have to *win!* This generation is depending on us!

What Does a Kidminnovator Look Like?



What could you create or innovate that could change the world? You say, "I'm from Possum Trot, Tennessee. How could I ever change the world?"

What could you create or innovate that could change your community in Possum Trot, Tennessee? What could God birth in you that would change the kids in your city? What could God birth in you that could spark a revival in the schools of your city?

You can do this! You can be a "Kidminnovator!"

Think about it...

- 1 Which of the characteristics of a Kidminnovator do you identify with most?
- 2 Which characteristics scare you the most?
- 3 What step can you take today to help you begin the journey to being the Kidminnovator God created you to be?

Five Keys to Instantly Improve Your Creative Output



OK, so I have you convinced! You can be a Kidminnovator! The rest of this book is going to be about giving you practical ways you can get that creativity flowing!

Creativity is an elusive thing. For most people, it doesn't just happen. Although, I am a firm believer that every one of us has enormous creative potential, there are definitely times when creativity just doesn't seem to flow.

If you find yourself struggling in your creative realm, try these tips:

① Start “scratching”

Twyla Tharp, author of The Creative Habit, talks about the act of scratching. She writes, *“You know how you scratch away at a lottery ticket to see if you’ve won? That’s what I’m doing when I begin a piece. I’m digging through everything to find something. It’s like clawing at a side of a mountain to get a toehold, a grip, some sort of traction to keep moving upward and onward.”* Scratching can be as simple as just typing/writing whatever comes to your mind, or maybe you just turn on your favorite jam and let your mind start to wander. Whatever it takes to get your creativity flowing.

② Unplug

So many people try to sit down and create, then are drawn away by email, texts, Facebook, Twitter, etc. Creative minds are inherently easily distracted, so is it any wonder you can't get any creative output done when you have all these things beckoning for your attention. I know it goes against our society's value system, but, seriously, you won't die if you totally unplug from the internet for a couple of hours. Let your spouse or boss know that you are turning your phone off for two hours. You will be surprised just how much you will get done.

Five Keys to Instantly Improve Your Creative Output



③ Turn off your “internal editor”

Writers are the worst at this. We tend to be rocking along, and then we start to overthink what we are writing. Suddenly, we backspace over and over and delete great content. Then, we can't seem to continue because we can't decide whether we should have actually deleted that content or not. *Turn off* your internal editor and just *create*. There will be plenty of time to edit later. For now, let your creativity fly. Create now, edit later.

④ Picture your audience

This goes beyond just deciding who your audience is in general (“I am writing this lesson for a group of 5th and 6th graders”). Instead, picture in your mind a face of *The* 6th grader you are writing this for. What problems are they struggling with? What is their family life? What are their dreams? As you write and create, make sure everything you write and create will minister directly to that person in your mind.

⑤ Keep the rhythm

So many creatives think that if they will just sit down for six to eight hours with no distractions, then they can produce some of their best work. Not true. Our bodies follow what are known as ultradian rhythms – ninety- minute periods at the end of which we reach the limits of our capacity to work at the highest level. There's no amount of coffee, Red Bull, or “5 Hour Energy” that will overcome it.

Your best bet is to take a 10-20 minute break after every 90 minutes of Creative Output. Take a walk, go talk to a friend down the hall, practice shooting paper wads into the trash can—*whatever*. Do anything *except* the creative project you were working on. I know, it goes against your belief that “if only I keep on hammering away at it, I will finish the project!” In truth, you may finish the project, but it will be sub par work compared to what it could be if you took a break.

Five Keys to Instantly Improve Your Creative Output

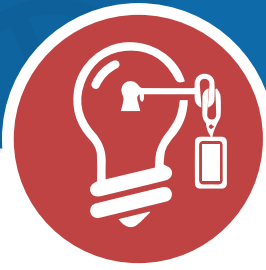


So, there you have it. Five quick tips to instantly improve your creative output. Which one(s) do you think you can put to use this week?

Think about it...

- ① Do you plan creative thinking time into your weekly schedule? Why, or why not?
- ② Do you find it difficult to “turn off your inner editor?” If so, why do you think this is a struggle? How can you change that?
- ③ Spend some time imagining your audience. Write down some characteristics of the average person in your audience. Spend some time thinking about how you can better communicate with them.

The Key to Limitless Creativity



Even the most creative human minds are finite. The term finite means “having bounds or limits; not infinite; measurable.” But God is infinite. He is “far above all,” not limited by any boundaries at all. When we draw only on our own creative resources, it’s like drinking from a thimble instead of the Great Lakes.

God’s power, love, and plans are beyond anything we can imagine. If we cultivate an attentive heart, we’ll tap into His limitless capacity. We’ll never come close to the depths of His greatness, but we can take several steps closer! In his beautiful prayer in his letter to the Ephesians, Paul prayed, *“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us” (Ephesians 3:20).*

What’s the biggest dream you can imagine about how God can use you in his kingdom? Seriously, take a moment and think about it. Got it? Guess what. You just undercut God. Your greatest and grandest ideas don’t compare to God’s limitless plans and resources. **God is not limited to working with our imagination.** He goes well beyond it—immeasurably beyond.

Far too often, we forget the power of God to inspire us.

We think His power is reserved for healings, conversions, and deliverances, but it also operates in our creative plans and dreams. God wants to inspire us with so many “God ideas” that we’ll never be able to implement them all. But first, we have to have open, receptive hearts.

Is your heart open to receive? More importantly, are you asking?

I want to ask you—will you do it? Will you take the leap and move into the realm of Kidminnovation? Will you conquer the fear that has held you back from the innovative leader God wants you to be?

Don’t duplicate. Innovate. This generation doesn’t need a bunch of cloned copies. This generation needs a group of fired up, hungry kids ministry innovators. So, step up—and step into the world of “Kidminnovation.”

The Key to Limitless Creativity



Think about it...

- ① Do you believe you were created for creativity?
Why or why not?
- ② Do you regularly spend time praying for God to give you ideas and inspiration?
- ③ Pray about possibly taking a day off or even a short retreat to listen to God's voice and be inspired to unleash innovative ideas into your Kids Ministry!

About the Author



Brian began in Kids Ministry in 1992. He has served at two churches, The Oaks Fellowship (Dallas, TX 1992-1999) and First NLR (North Little Rock, AR 1999 – Present). He loves kids, Kidmin Leaders, and everything that involves leading children in their spiritual journey!

Brian founded [High Voltage Kids Ministry Resources](#) in 1998, which creates and provides Kids Church Curriculum, Music, Games, Videos, and more to churches around the world.

Brian has had the privilege of speaking at many Kidmin Conferences, Workshops, Seminars, etc. He has a passion for passing on what God has enabled him to learn from his 20+ years of ministry and learning from other Kidmin Leaders!

Brian and his wife of 20+ years, Cherith, have two amazing children: daughter, Ashton and son, Jordan



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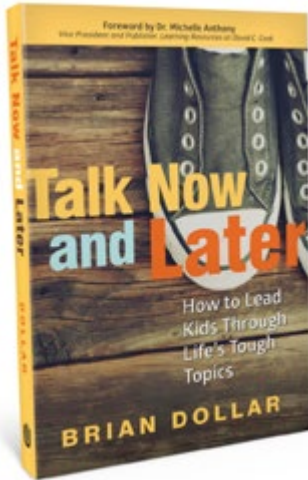


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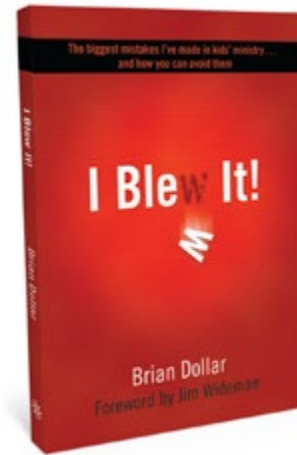
Resources



Books



In ***Talk Now and Later***, author Brian Dollar presents 10 common topics your child deals with — or will soon — and detailed advice on how to approach and discuss the issues with them. Learn to have these conversations early, have them often, and have them wisely so that when the difficult topics come up, the lines of communication will already be open. Provides conversation starters on the following issues: God Death and Tragedy Sex Self-Image Making Wise Choices Divorce Friendships Money Bullying Restoring Broken Relationships Get ready to talk to your children about the big issues in life — now and later.



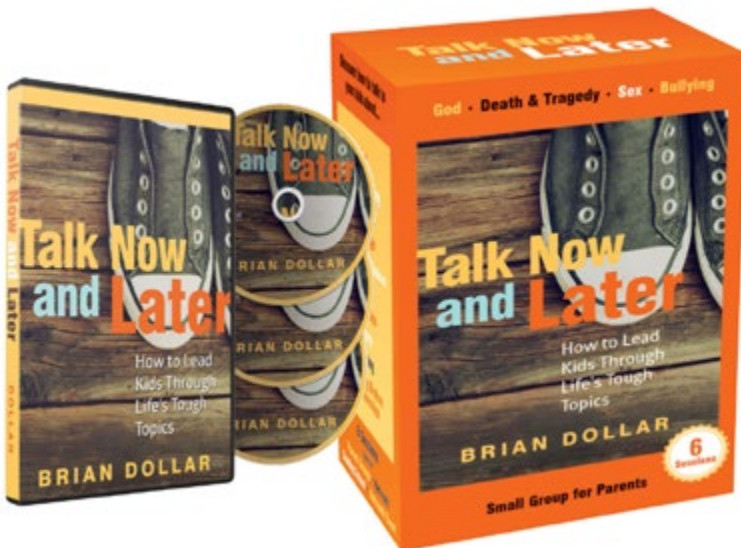
I Blew It! takes the reader through the biggest mistakes Brian has made in the first 20 years of KidsMinistry. It is filled with hilarious stories, heartbreaking moments, and challenging thoughts.

Available from Influence Resources

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Order these books and more at:
www.highvoltagekids.com/books/

Small Group Kit



Based on the best-selling book (reached #1 on Amazon's Christian Families new release chart) of the same name, the ***Talk Now and Later Small Group Kit*** equips parents to guide their kids through six sessions (approx. 1 hour each) on tough topics. Ideal for parent groups, retreats, Sunday School classes, outreach events, and more!

Includes:

- Inspirational teaching and real-life testimonies on the DVDs
- Easy-to-prepare sessions with Bible passages, discussion questions, and teaching helps in the Facilitator Guide
- 5 copies of *Talk Now and Later* to share with group members (additional copies available for purchase)

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