

The S.A.D.D.L.E.B.A.C.K. Strategy

Through the years Pastor Rick would use S.A.D.D.L.E.B.A.C.K. as an acrostic to teach and communicate the vision, values, and strategy to our staff and volunteers. This acrostic changed over the years because we changed over the years. The vision and values never changed, but we did change the emphasis of our work in response to where we were going in the next phase of our journey.

The 1980s

S Simple Structure
A Atmosphere of Acceptance
D Defined Purposes
D Defined Target
L Lay Ministry
E Encouraging Preaching
B Build Up Before Building Out
A Advertise Good News
C Contemporary Worship
K Keep on Learning

The 1990s

Seeker Sensitive Service
Affinity Groups
Driven by Purpose
Demonstrate Acceptance
Life Development Process
Every Member Is A Minister
Behavioral Preaching
Authentic Leadership
Circles of Commitment
Keep Structure Simple

The 21st Century

Second Chance Grace Place
All Nation Congregation
Doable Faith
Deliberate Pathway for Growth
Love in Action
Empowered Members
Bold Faith
Authentic Relationship
Creative Outreaches
Kid and Family Focused

S.A.D.D.L.E.B.A.C.K STRATEGY

Version 1 for 1980s

- S Simple Structure** “Fast, Fluid, Flexible”
Maximize ministry & Minimize Maintenance”
Eph. 4:1112 - The members are the ministers and the pastors are the *administrators*
- A Atmosphere of Acceptance** “Unity without uniformity”
Romans 15:7 "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you."
- D Defined Purposes**
Matt. 22:3640 & Matthew 28:1920 “A Great Commitment to the Great Commandment & the Great Commission”
- D Defined Target** “Focus on the Unchurched – (Saddleback Sam)”
1 Cor. 9:2223 (LB) "...Whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him. I do this to get the Gospel to them..."
- L Lay Ministry** “Every member is a minister”
Romans 12:56 "In Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts according to the grace given us."
1 Peter 4:10 "Each one should use whatever spiritual gift he has received to serve others..."
- E Encouraging Preaching** “You only believe the part you actually do”
Life –Application teaching. A bias for action
Romans 15:4, "Everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that t through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures, we might have hope."
James 1:22 "Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. DO what it says."
- B Build up before Building Out** “Build your people before your steeple”
Most churches build *too soon* and *too small*
- A Advertise Good News** “The packaging must be as attractive as the news”
The church has the best news but the worst packaging
Psalms 96:3 “Publish his glorious acts throughout the earth. Tell everyone about the amazing things he does.”(Living)
- C Contemporary Worship** **Psalm 96:1** “Sing a new song to the Lord”
- K Keep on Learning** “All leaders are learners”
The moment you stop learning, you stop leading. Growing churches require growing leaders
Proverbs 18:15 “The intelligent man is always open to new ideas. In fact, he looks for them.”
Eccl. 10:10 “If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed but skill will bring success.”

S.A.D.D.L.E.B.A.C.K STRATEGY

Version 2 for 1990s

S **Seeker Sensitive Service** *"Start where people are"*

"It's easier to turn a crowd into a core"

1 Cor. 9:2223 (LB) "...Whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him. I do this to get the Gospel to them..."

A **Affinity Groups** *"Grow larger and smaller at the same time"*

Acts 5:42 "Every day in the temple courts, and in people's homes they continued to teach and preach the Good News."

D **Driven by Purpose** *"Purpose driven not personality driven"*

Matt. 22:3640 & 28:1920 The Great Commandment & the Great Commission

D **Demonstrate Purpose** *"Unity without uniformity"*

Rom. 15:7 "Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you."

L **Life Development Process** *"Systematic disciple development"*

Phil. 1:6 (Ph) "I am confident of this: that the One who has begun his good work in you will go on developing it until the day of Jesus Christ."

E **Every Member is a Minister** *"S.H.A.P.E based ministries"*

Rom. 12:56 "In Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts according to the grace given us."

1 Peter 4:10 "Each one should use whatever spiritual gift he has received to serve others..."

B **Behavioral Preaching** *"Preaching for life-change"*

James 1:22 "Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves. DO what it says."

Luke 10:37 "Jesus said, 'Go and do likewise.'"

A **Authentic Leadership** *"Leaders emerge; they aren't elected".*

Heb. 13:7 "Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith."

Eph. 4:1112 "(God) has given...pastors and teachers to prepare God's people for works of ministry, so the body of Christ may be built up."

C **Circles of Commitment** *"People grow by choices, commitments and covenants."*

Eph. 4:1315 (Ph) "...We ARRIVE at real maturity that measure of development which is meant by 'the fullness of Christ.' We are not meant to remain as children... but to grow up in every way into Christ..."

K **Keep the Structure Simple** *"Fast, fluid, flexible"*

Luke 5:37 "You can't pour new wine in old wineskins."

Heb. 8:13 (Ph) "When a thing grows weak and out of date it is obviously soon going to disappear."

S.A.D.D.L.E.B.A.C.K STRATEGY

Version 3 for the 21st Century

S Second Chance Grace Place

Eph. 4:32 "Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as God forgave you through Christ."

Rom. 15:7 (LB) "Warmly welcome each other into the church, just as Christ has warmly welcomed you; then God will be glorified!"

A All Nation Congregation

Mark 11:17 Jesus: 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.'

Psalms 22:27 (TEV) "All nations will remember the Lord. From every part of the world they will turn to him; all races will worship him"

D Doable Faith

James 1:22 "Be DOERS of the Word, and NOT HEARERS only, deceiving your own selves."

James 4:17 "Anyone, who KNOWS the good he ought to do but doesn't DO it, sins."

Matt.7:21 Jesus: "Not everyone who SAYS to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who DOES the will of my Father."

Matt. 28:20 Jesus "Teach them TO DO everything I have commanded you."

D Deliberate Pathway for Growth

Heb. 6:1 "Let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and GO ON to maturity."

Prov. 4:26 (NLT) "Mark out a straight path for your feet; then stick to the path and you will stay safe."

2 Cor. 3:18 (NLT) "As the Spirit of the Lord works within us, we become MORE AND MORE LIKE him and reflect his glory even more"

L Love in Action

1 John 3:16-18 (TEV) "This is how we know what love is: Christ gave his life for us. We too, then, ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters! If we have possessions and see others in need, yet close our hearts against them, how can we claim that we love God? Our love must not be just words and talk; it must be true love, which show itself in ACTION!"

E Empowered Members

1 Cor. 12:27 (NLT) "All of you together are Christ's Body, and each one of you is a separate and necessary part of it."

1 Cor. 12:21-22 "The eye can never say to the hand, 'I don't need you.' The head can't say to the feet, 'I don't need you.' In fact, some of the parts that seem least important are really the most necessary!"

B Bold Faith

Eph. 3:20 "Glory be to God, who by his mighty power at work within us is able to do far more than we would ever dare to ask or even dream of--infinitely beyond our highest prayers, desires, thoughts, or hopes!"

Matt. 9:29 Jesus said, "According to your faith will it be done to you!"

Mark 9:23 Jesus: "Everything is possible for him who believes!"

Isaiah 49:6 (Mes) "It's not a big enough job for you my servant just to bring your own people back to me. I'm setting you up as a light for all nations so that my salvation becomes global!"

A Authentic Relationship

Hebrews 10:24-25 "Let us be concerned for one another, and inspire each other to show love and to do good. Let us not give up the habit of meeting together... Instead, let us encourage one another all the more..."

2 Tim. 2:2 "Take the teachings that you've learned from me and PASS THEM ON to faithful people, who will be able to teach others also."

Job 8:8-10 (NLT) "Just ask the former generation. Pay attention to their experience. For we know so little... and our days on earth are brief. But those who came before us will teach you. They will teach you from the wisdom of former generations."

C Creative Outreaches

1 Cor. 9:19-23 "I become a servant to everyone so that I can win them to Christ. When I am with Jews who follow Jewish laws I adapt to them so I can win them to Christ and when I am with Gentiles I try to fit in as much as I can to help and reach them. To the weak I become weak to win the weak. Whatever a person is like, I try to find common ground with him so that he will let me tell him about Christ and let Christ save him. I do this to get the Good News to them and also for the blessing I receive when I see them come to Christ."

Mark 2:22 Jesus: "You cannot put new wine in old wine skins!"

K Kid and Family Focused

Matt. 18:10 (NCV) Jesus: "Be careful! Don't make the mistake of thinking that little children are unimportant! I tell you that they have angels who are always with my Father in heaven."

Matt.18:3 Jesus: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven."