

Why Your Great Ministry Idea Gets Shut Down

A good idea still loses when it arrives cold and unrehearsed.

EPISODE THESIS

Great ideas get shut down when they are winged, bloated, confusing, or underprepared. Rehearsal is private practice before public performance, and it earns credibility even when the final answer is still no.

WHY REHEARSAL MATTERS

- A dry run does not count yet, but it matters. The fourth time should not be the first time the words leave your mouth.
- Your first draft should never be your final draft. Strong leaders spend calories in preparation so their senior leader spends fewer calories understanding and approving the request.
- A vague “I’ll think about it” can be a no in disguise. Clarity, options, and preparation make the yes easier to give.
- Even a prepared no can still be a win because it validates your work ethic, judgment, and ability to make thoughtful proposals.

THE REHEARSAL PATH

- Write the pitch tightly: problem, solution, why it matters, and what decision is needed.
- Bring no fewer than three options. The strongest path is often the well-reasoned middle option, with one larger option and one leaner fallback.
- Create an insider team for speculative speaking: your one, your three, and your twelve. Tell them you are processing out loud so they do not mistake brainstorming for a decision.
- Watch for agreement, confusion, and value. After each run ask: What needs repeated? What needs deleted?
- Plan for the no. If the answer is no, know the contingency before you walk into the room.

PRACTICE ASSIGNMENT

Take one real request and rehearse it three times: once with your one, once with your three, and once with a broader trusted group. Revise after every run before the senior leader meeting.

PITCH CHECKLIST

- State the problem, the stakes, the recommended path, two alternate options, the cost, the tradeoff, and the exact decision needed.
- After every rehearsal, mark what needs repeated, what needs deleted, where people looked confused, and where they leaned in.
- Write the no-plan before the meeting so the ministry can still move forward if the answer is not yet.

TEACH-BACK FLOW

- Begin with the cost of winging it: a half-baked proposal can lose the idea and the leader’s confidence.
- Have the learner turn one rough idea into three options: overbuilt, preferred, and lean fallback.
- Rehearse the opening ninety seconds out loud, then revise it until the decision needed is unmistakable.