Victory Ventures 2024 Q4 Pre-Planning Survey

Instructions: Before the upcoming planning meeting, take 20-30 minutes to thoughtfully review your team Pre-Planning Survey responses below. The categories include Wins, Starts, Stops, Culture, Communication, Focus, and All-Stars. The responses are reported without attribution (anonymously.) Your task is to identify opportunities, issues, and questions to discuss at the planning meeting. Then brainstorm possible action items and priorities to address as a team.

QUESTIONS OR CLARIFICATIONS FROM THE SURVEY TO DISCUSS AT THE PLANNING MEETING:	
PRIORITY AND ACTION ITEM BRAINSTORM BASED ON SURVEY RESPONSES:	

Wins: What, in your opinion, were the most significant achievements of Victory Ventures in the past Quarter, and why do you consider them noteworthy?

Combining the dev and QA teams has been a game-changer. Cross-training has improved, and we're seeing fewer bugs in our releases. It's clear this was the right move.

Hiring a new VP of Operations was crucial. They've already started making positive changes in streamlining our processes, which should help us scale more efficiently.

Landing the contract with National Healthcare Services was a huge success. It not only boosts our revenue but also puts us on the map as a major player in the industry.

Our client satisfaction scores have gone up, which is a direct result of the improvements we've made in our customer service department. It's great to see our hard work paying off.

The IT infrastructure upgrade was a massive success. Our systems are running smoother, with fewer outages, and we've significantly improved our data security.

The merger with XYZ Corp was a big win. It's not easy integrating two different company cultures, but we've done a great job bringing everyone together and starting to operate as one unit.

The monthly all-hands meetings have really improved communication within the company. Everyone seems more aligned with the company's goals, and it's nice to see more transparency from leadership.

We rolled out new features for our main software product, and the feedback from clients has been fantastic. It feels like we're really meeting their needs and staying ahead of the competition.

We've drastically reduced the number of unnecessary meetings. This has allowed us to focus more on our actual work and has improved overall productivity.

We've made significant progress on our rebranding initiative. The new brand identity will help us present a unified front to our customers, which is critical as we expand.

Start: Based on the last Quarter at Victory Ventures, what is one thing you believe we should start doing to improve? Please be specific.

I think we should start regularly surveying our customers to get feedback. Understanding their pain points directly would help us improve our products and services.

It would be beneficial to have more cross-departmental meetings. Sometimes it feels like we're working in silos, and I think more collaboration would help everyone stay on the same page.

Leadership needs to be more transparent about the decisions they're making and why. It feels like we're sometimes in the dark about what's happening at the top.

Let's centralize our communication. Right now, we have updates coming from too many different places—email, Slack, ADP. It's confusing. A single platform for all company communications would be ideal.

More IT training would be helpful. There are a lot of tools we use that people aren't fully comfortable with, and I think some targeted training sessions could improve productivity.

Start focusing more on employee mental health. It's been a stressful year, and I think offering resources or even just having open conversations about it could make a big difference.

We need a better onboarding process for new hires. It's pretty disjointed right now, and people aren't getting the training they need to hit the ground running.

We should develop clearer career paths within the company. It's hard to know what the next steps are for advancement, and that can be demotivating.

We should invest more in marketing. Our competitors are more visible than we are, and I think a bigger marketing push could really help us gain market share.

We should start offering more professional development programs. There are so many online courses and certifications available that could help us grow our skills and advance our careers.

Stop: Based on the last Quarter at Victory Ventures, what is one thing you believe we should stop doing to improve? Please be specific.

Let's stop micromanaging. Trust people to do their jobs. I feel like we're wasting time with unnecessary check-ins and oversight.

Let's stop putting so much emphasis on rebranding. It's important, but we need to make sure it doesn't distract us from more critical tasks.

Let's stop raising prices so aggressively. It's making our long-term clients nervous, and I think we risk losing some of them if we keep this up.

Stop focusing so much on leadership hires. We need more support at the mid-level where the actual work is getting done.

Stop overloading employees with multiple roles. It's not sustainable in the long run, and it's causing burnout.

Stop rolling out IT updates without warning. It disrupts our workflow, and sometimes it feels like we're beta testing the new systems instead of using fully vetted tools.

We need to stop having so many meetings. A lot of them could be handled with a quick email or a Slack message instead. It's hard to stay productive with constant interruptions.

We need to stop holding meetings without clear agendas. It's frustrating when a meeting could have been productive but ends up being a waste of time because there was no focus.

We need to stop starting new projects before finishing the ones we already have on our plates. It feels like we're spreading ourselves too thin.

We should stop trying to do everything in-house. Sometimes it's more efficient to outsource certain tasks rather than burden our internal teams with too much work.

Culture: In reflecting on the past Quarter, how would you describe the culture within Victory Ventures, particularly in terms of appreciation, individual growth, development, trust, and respect among colleagues, and what actions could be taken in the next Quarter to foster a more positive culture?

Growth and development opportunities seem to be reserved for a select few. We need to make sure everyone has access to the resources they need to advance.

I've noticed that opportunities for individual growth aren't very clear. We should have more discussions about career development and what paths are available within the company.

I've seen some improvement in how we're celebrating individual wins, but there's still room to grow. We should be more consistent in recognizing achievements across the board.

Overall, I think we have a good culture, but I worry about burnout. We need to make sure we're supporting work-life balance, especially as we take on more projects.

The company is trying to build a positive culture, but there's still a lot of uncertainty due to recent changes. More transparency from leadership would help build trust.

The culture feels a bit disconnected, especially between the legacy Acme team and the folks who joined from XYZ Corp. We need more team-building activities to bring everyone together.

The culture here is generally positive, but I feel like appreciation is sometimes lacking. We need to do more to recognize the hard work people are putting in.

The monthly all-hands meetings are a good start, but I think we need more informal opportunities to connect with leadership. It would help build a stronger culture of trust.

There's a good level of trust within my team, but I think we could do more to foster cross-departmental respect and collaboration. Sometimes it feels like different departments are competing rather than working together.

There's a strong sense of respect among colleagues, but I think we need to work on how we handle conflict. It's not always addressed in the most constructive way.

Communication: Identify one area where you believe communication at Victory Ventures could have been better last Quarter, and suggest a specific step to improve it next Quarter.

Communication during the merger was pretty good, but there's still some lingering confusion about roles and responsibilities. More clarity would help.

Communication is good, but there are too many channels being used. It's easy to miss something important when updates come from email, Slack, and other platforms.

Cross-departmental communication could be improved. It feels like each team is working in a bubble, and that leads to misalignment on goals.

I think leadership needs to be more transparent in their communication. We sometimes hear about decisions after the fact, and it would be better to be involved earlier.

I think we could do a better job of communicating product changes to the teams that interact with customers. It would help us provide better service.

I'd like to see more transparency about how decisions are made. It sometimes feels like we're in the dark about why certain choices are made.

It would be great if we could reduce the number of emails and use something like Slack more effectively for quick updates.

There's been a lot of improvement in communication with the monthly huddles, but I think we could benefit from more frequent updates, especially on major projects.

There's too much over-communication on some topics and not enough on others. We need to find a better balance to avoid information overload.

We need to establish a single source of truth for company updates. It's confusing when important information is scattered across different platforms.

Focus: Based on your experience at Victory Ventures in the past Quarter, what should be the primary focus for the organization in the next Quarter? Be specific with your recommendation.

Victory Ventures should be focused on cross-departmental collaboration. We need to make sure that all teams are aligned and working towards the same goals.

Victory Ventures should focus on client satisfaction and retention. If we keep our current clients happy, they'll stick around and help grow our revenue over time.

Improving the IT infrastructure should be a key focus. There have been too many issues recently with systems going down, and it affects everyone's productivity.

Increasing our marketing efforts should be a priority. We're not as visible as some of our competitors, and it's holding us back.

Let's focus on completing the rebranding process. It will help unify the company internally and create a stronger identity for our customers.

Let's focus on employee development. Investing in the people we have will help retain talent and build stronger teams.

Our focus should be on better internal communication. If we can improve how information is shared, it will make everything run more smoothly.

We need to focus on creating more efficient processes. There's a lot of time wasted on redundant steps, and streamlining operations could free up resources.

We need to focus on improving our core product offerings instead of constantly launching new features. Let's make sure what we have works perfectly before moving on.

We should be focusing on building a more unified culture. There's still some tension between different teams, and it's holding us back.

All-Stars: Who would you consider the All-Star team members in the past Quarter at Victory Ventures, and what specific actions or behaviors made them stand out? Reference applicable Core Values, where appropriate.

Ava in Finance has been amazing at keeping everything on track with the budget and forecasting. She's been a key player in the company's financial health.

David in IT has been a rockstar. He's always available to help with any issues and has been instrumental in keeping our systems running smoothly.

Emma from Sales did an amazing job closing the deal with National Healthcare Services. Her persistence and negotiation skills really paid off.

Ethan from Customer Support has gone above and beyond for our clients. He's received glowing feedback from multiple customers and has helped resolve several critical issues.

Isabella from Business Development has been instrumental in securing new leads. Her work is helping us fill the sales pipeline for the next quarter.

Liam from Product Development worked tirelessly to get the new features out ahead of schedule. His attention to detail made the difference in client satisfaction.

Mason in Operations has kept everything running smoothly. His leadership during the merger was critical in making sure nothing fell through the cracks.

Noah in QA deserves recognition for his attention to detail. Thanks to him, we've had fewer bugs in our product releases, and the overall quality has improved.

Olivia in HR has been exceptional at onboarding new hires and making everyone feel welcomed. She's helped maintain a positive culture through all the changes.

Sophia in Marketing has been fantastic. The new campaigns she's launched have significantly increased our brand's visibility, and her creativity is unmatched.