

Low-Budget, High-Impact Innovation: Building Mission-Driven Ideas Without Big Tech Backing

Bridger Moreland | Speaker's Notes

Slide 1: The Innovation Gap

- Let me tell you about a classroom with zero tech budget — and yet, students were deploying service desks, building escape rooms, and outpacing expectations.
- We often think innovation begins when we have enough resources. But what if the truth is the opposite?
- 'If duct tape were digital, it'd be my entire budget.'
- This talk is for anyone who's ever said, 'I'd do more if I just had more.' What if the secret to innovation was actually... subtraction?

Slide 2: Mindset Shift

- Innovation doesn't start with tools. It starts with a mindset.
- Resourceful design is about constraints. Simplicity. Getting scrappy.
- Ask: When's the last time you made something work when it really shouldn't have?
- Reflect on your own 'MacGyver moment.' That's the spark.

Slide 3: Innovation Mad Libs

- Audience activity: Let's invent something right now — with nothing.
- Prompt: 'I will build a ___ for ___ using ___ and only \$___.'
- Take 1–2 responses. Have fun with it. Celebrate how quickly they ideate.
- Point: Constraints lead to clarity. You just innovated. Right there.

Slide 4: Resourceful Design 101

- Define resourceful design: purposeful + pragmatic + principled.
- Key mantra: 'Use what you have. Build what you need.'
- Show: Framework infographic – Identify → Adapt → Deploy → Refine.
- Each stage is repeatable. The loop is how you create value sustainably.

Slide 5: Case Study – TCAT Classrooms

- Real students. Real results. No big grants.
- Gamified labs. Troubleshooting escape rooms. Virtual helpdesk.
- Tools: Shared drives, QR codes, ServiceNow free tier.
- Outcome: 20% higher cert pass rate, more confident grads, portfolios that matter.

Slide 6: Case Study – Disciple Quest

- What if faith and tech could coexist?
- Built a spiritual AI companion using Supabase + Groq + Tailwind.
- Not funded. Not perfect. But it's already helping people pray and study more.
- Point: You don't need investors. You need intention.

Slide 7: Case Study – 1Acre Project

- Idle land → productive gardens → connected people.
- Gamified volunteering. Garden dashboard. Community-powered system.
- Tools: Supabase. Tailwind. GitHub. Students helped build it.
- It's not about how much you have. It's about what you care enough to build.

Slide 8: Free Tool Stack

- The stack that built all this: Supabase, Groq, Tailwind CSS, Figma, VS Code.
- Show demo/code – highlight how fast it is to launch something today.
- Ask: What are YOU building with your stack?

Slide 9: Live Demo

- Showcase rapid built apps with AI response using low cost or free platforms.
- Highlight early models vs the polished version and discuss value of polish.
- Build with community and learning labor.

Slide 10: Rapid Innovation Framework

- Cycle: Identify → Adapt → Deploy → Refine.
- Show how it maps to their org, their classroom, their cause.
- Give away the infographic. Invite them to try it this week.

Slide 11: Call to Action

- Close: You don't need a grant. You need a mission.
- Challenge: Build something this month with what you have right now.
- Invite: Download the toolkit. Let's connect. Let's build.
- Final line: 'Innovation doesn't wait. And neither should you.'