



FUTURE OF THE CHURCH

JOURNEY BOOK



PRAYER

THANK YOU FOR THE PERSON WHO HAS
DECIDED TO TAKE THIS JOURNEY. MAY YOU
REVEAL YOURSELF TO THEM AND THE TRUTHS
ABOUT YOU THAT THEY MAY EXPERIENCE YOU IN
WAYS THEY NEVER HAVE BEFORE. YOU ARE
AWESOME AND I ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR
GREATNESS TO THOSE WHO NEED TO DISCOVER
YOU AND THOSE WHO NEED TO REDISCOVER
YOU. MAY YOU GUIDE THE PRAYERS, THOUGHTS,
AND ACTIONS THAT COME FROM THE PERSON
AND/OR CHURCH WHO USES THIS GUIDE. HELP
US AS A BODY OF BELIEVERS TO LIVE AND BE AS
ONE AS THE TRINITY IS ONE. IN JESUS' NAME.
AMEN.

I WOULD
ENCOURAGE
YOU TO PRAY.

Use this section to write your own prayer before beginning this journey:

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

DEDICATION

TO GOD BE THE
GLORY ALONE.

SDG

GLORY UNLIMITED PRESENTS "FUTURE OF THE CHURCH"

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JOONS

*IS
THE*

ANSWER

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FOR THOSE WHO HAVE YET TO BELIEVE IN JESUS

TESTIMONY

PRAYER CARD

NOTES

IT'S TIME

It's time to actually think and talk about where the Church is headed. It's time to take action in our personal lives, the only thing we can immediately influence, so that through prayerful thinking and living we are hopefully affecting the larger institution. The Church is thought to be in a dire position in America. Statistics prove that and many stories that you and I have heard, or even experienced, further showcase our uphill battle as Christ followers. My goal when I made this film was to find formulas for churches, leaders, and every day Christ-followers to utilize so that our body acted more like a unified organism than a crumbling cookie – you know it could be good, but it sounds and looks terrible. In my endless search for manmade concoctions I rediscovered my living Savior, Jesus Christ. He's the One I sadly made into a cliché. To think I knew the Answer to this formula of Church problems all along proves how much I allowed culture to influence me rather than Christ transforming me. I gradually retreated from Truth. In creating this film I certainly found that I love asking questions. I believe

God used the questions I asked to get me to ask deeper questions to myself. The closer I got to Jesus being my life's Answer, the more I could feel an orbiting effect taking place. I was caught in His way of thinking about and living out the Kingdom of God, and I would never be the same.

I hope this sort of story occurs for you, your family, and your church. I pray that those who need to discover Jesus would truly find Him and for those of us who know Him, that we would rediscover Him in the deepest and most meaningful ways. This Journey Book requires your prayers, honesty, and commitment to action. There will be times where a section will seem off topic, not relevant to you or your church, or just too hard or boring to think through. I certainly won't force it on you, but I would encourage you that these sections were written purposefully to help us journey together to discover or rediscover our only Answer to a complex world.

UNDERSTANDING THIS JOURNEY BOOK

- Whenever I use a capital "C" for Church I am referencing the global body of Christ.

- Whenever I use a lowercase "c" I'm speaking to the individual brand(s) of church – the place you may work, volunteer, or attend.

This Journey Book works best when you: pray with an open-mind, don't be afraid of the future or regretful of the past, and lovingly converse with others as you seek what God has in store for you and your church.

The purpose of this Journey Book is NOT to come up with an exact plan for your future or your church. It is to direct or redirect our hearts to JESUS. To be intentional in our questions and answers so that we really hear from Him as to what He would have us do.

FUTURE OF THE CHURCH

WEEK ONE | **0:00-04:01**

INTRODUCTION

WEEK ONE | INTRODUCTION

At first it seemed so simple. Come up with a formula that a myriad of churches could follow that would propel us into our bigger and brighter future. I grew up in Church and I know the Bible, I know Jesus, I know to pray, I know to attend church, but for some reason those things just weren't cutting it because they were losing their "practicality". Business school had me believing that our future should be strategized, limit risk and surprises. So by seeking a plethora of strategic insights from my interviewees and consolidating those insights to a repeatable formula, I'd be well on my way to showing the Church how to do

church better. Keep in mind this journey lasted three long years, brought us all around the country, challenged our thinking, and proved to never be easy. What you're about to experience in the next seven weeks either as an individual or as a small group, took much longer to truly experience as Christ revealed things in His timing. I pray for you as you begin this course that God would bring this material to you at the right time and that you would journey with Him deeper than you ever have before. So, let's begin:

1. Tommy Barnett opens our documentary with the statement: "Every great church is born in confusion. There's actually chaos in the church. Growth is chaos. But you know amongst chaos is where the miracles take place. But if you stay in chaos you'll be destroyed." Most of us desire our churches to grow and flourish, but this comes at a cost. Whether you are a church staff member or weekly attendee are you experiencing the chaos of church right now? How is it affecting you?

2. It's easy to skip past today and think about the future, because it's possibly more exciting in our minds than today, but what about today? What's on your agenda, your church's agenda, and your community's agenda? I mean "agenda" literally (e.g. work 8am-5pm, small groups at 7pm, Phoenix Suns game at 7pm) as well as metaphorically (e.g. racism, immigration, wage gap, gender equality). Does your personal practical agenda ever align with the metaphorical agenda of your church or your community?

3. Don Wilson uses the metaphor that we [Christians] are now America's visiting team and Don Enevoldsen makes the point that it's not going to be popular to be a Christian anymore. Discuss this. What happens when Christians become the minority in a country that still says "in God we trust"?

4. Do you feel the Institution of Church is becoming more self aware of its strengths and weaknesses?

5. Larry Osborne mentions, "...instead of getting angry at the American Church we need to find the bruised reed and not break it off, we need to help straighten it out." What do you feel like you can help mend in your church that has been broken?

6. If you're a pastor, you undoubtedly know a "Dechurched" person (someone who loves God and used to attend church with regular involvement, but is now done with the Institution and finds God elsewhere). These are people who are angry and hurt by the Institution of Church, and it isn't just attendees who have anger or hurt feelings toward Church, there are also pastors, worship leaders, church secretaries, and childcare volunteers who have either burned out or were permanently scarred by the treatment they received. There may be no strategizing how to "avoid" these circumstances of hurt, but think about how your church can mitigate these harsh feelings from those who end up leaving out the "backdoor", including leadership.

7. Glenn Packiam discusses how "...this time in history may be new for American Christians but it's not new for the Church." That being the case, what situation is this current time like when you think about the entirety of Church history? What did Christians in that time do to respond to their context?

8. Deanell Tacha states, "The Church must see itself as part of a rapidly, rapidly changing world." I remember saying to many pastors, it feels like the Church is 10-20 years behind where it should be. I would comment about the irony of how we're finally starting to "collaborate" with each other whereas Fortunate 500 companies began effectively collaborating long before us. Are we keeping up with culture? Should we feel that pressure?

WEEK ONE | 04:01-6:44

STEVEN'S STORY

WEEK ONE | STEVEN'S STORY

I feel so grateful for the amazing faith environment I was raised in. Although my story isn't some radical conversion, it's still Christ at work within me. That's important for us as believers. We each have a story, some more grand than others about how Christ met us, but the point is that He met us and we accepted His free gift. Our culture loves a good story. But what can often happen is we can either totally downplay our own story as if we don't remember God's sovereign and loving workings in our life or we can focus on the juicy details of someone else's testimony that we miss how God literally brought them out

of the mire and gave them a new life because we're so busy comparing how we never did that. And if you won't admit to either of those things, then I will, because I've done them both. The truth is, we need to feel more compelled to tell the story of Christ's work within us and we need to be eager to listen to Christ's work within others. So, with that in mind, let's get to it:

1. What's your personal journey to faith? It's easy as Christians to miss this, especially if we've been raised in Church, but when did the reality of your faith hit you? Where were you? Who were you with? How old were you? What brought you to that moment? What happened in the following days and weeks? Explain it to those around or write down that moment for yourself. *Turn to the back of the book to write your testimony.*

2. Do you know the background of those in your church and how they came to faith? Are you preaching each weekend to Christian "lifers", "baby" Christians, or somewhere in between? Don't guess – ask them.

3. Given where you're at spiritually, let me ask you, do you really believe that what you believe is really real?

4. Considering your position (whether pastor or marketplace leader/worker), what's church like for you? Is it stressful? The thing you look forward to most each week? The place where you meet new people? The place where you hear a great talk? The place where you sing a few songs? The place where the struggle of parking is the only thing you remember on Monday? The place where your kids love it so much you have to keep going? What's it like for you?

5. I tell a story of a crack in my house's ceiling and how it metaphorically for me represents my views of the Church. The crack has been so gradual in its development over the past few years that the easiest thing to do is ignore it, but subconsciously I know it's there and I know it's growing. Do you feel that way about Church? You know something is cracking in the Institution of Church, but you don't know what to do about it? What can be done? What should be done?

6. Youth pastors and children's pastors, ask yourselves: How are we setting up our recent high school graduates for success in a world in which they now live with their secular peers more than their parents?

7. Have you ever considered just how big the Church is? Just to put this in perspective, at the time of this Journey Book printing the largest franchise in the world, Subway, has about 45,000 locations around the world. The Christian Church has over 300,000 churches in America! American Church attendance regularly beats out Sunday football watching, and by a pretty significant margin. That being said, given our ability to gather so many people, are we really making the most of this "strategic advantage" over a moral-declining culture? Another way of putting it, are we making progress on culture's regress of absolutes, faith, and moral values?

WEEK ONE | 06:44-08:41

INSPIRATION



WEEK ONE | INSPIRATION

I wish I could tell you that I was inspired in a more spiritual way to begin filming this documentary, but God sometimes works in strange ways. The ExxonMobil document (<http://corporate.exxonmobil.com/en/energy/energy-outlook>) that inspired me continues to motivate me as I yearn to dream as God desires for the Church. Take a look at the document ExxonMobil puts together each year, and engage together on the following questions:

1. In what sorts of ways does ExxonMobil approach the future that could be helpful for our thinking?

2. Because of the money invested in the infrastructure of oil and natural gas, ExxonMobil and other energy companies don't plan on replacing these primary energy resources anytime soon. Think about that as it relates to the Church. Are we too invested in our buildings that we can't imagine or don't have the flexibility to change the framework of how we do church?

3. Jim Tomberlin asks, "Is the Church in the church building business or are we in the life transformation business?" What do you think?

4. Are our buildings inviting? How many people are regular attendees in your church that originally came because they were intrigued by the physical presence of your building?

FUTURE OF THE CHURCH

WEEK ONE | **08:41-14:18**

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

WEEK ONE | HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

I'm saddened to say that when I began this documentary, I barely knew enough of Church history to get by, but I couldn't believe how much I didn't know. Our history is vital to understanding how to approach and be proactive about the things we'll face in our future. Even if you already have a rich understanding of Church history, I would ask that you enter into this section with an open mind and/or a desire to help those who are doing this journey with you. Our history is foundational.

1. What's the history of your church? Do you really know it? Do you often tell of the stories that God has done in your midst?

2. If you're part of a denomination, do you know how it began?

3. Glenn Packiam asks us, "What about our situation is like other situations that the Church has been in in the past? And what are some of the best Christ-centered, Gospel-shaped practices that the Church has embraced that may have been forgotten along the way?" What would you say?

4. Kary Kingsland reminds us that, "The Church in its history, in many places, has had to carve out its existence, its presence...It's been willing to go where no man has gone before." How did your church originally and through time carve out its existence in its community? If you support missionaries or have missionaries on staff, ask them to tell you the stories of how they have entered in to places where "no man has gone before" for the glory of God.

5. Greg Mundis tells us that the thing we need to recall from our history as we look at our future is quite simple: "Stay on mission." What do you think? What is that historical truth, principle, lesson that we need to take with us as we go into our future?

6. As Ron Cox, Ph.D. walks us through 2,000 years of Church history he mentions the two primary metaphors that are used to describe Church history: a River that flows from Jesus, through the apostles, through the disciples and to us; and a Garden where the historical Jesus is represented in the soil and the flowers that blossom are the reactions to Jesus that occur at different contexts throughout history. Think about these metaphors, which resonates with you? Explain your thoughts. If neither resonates with you, how would you describe Church history using a metaphor?

7. When I hear these metaphors it helps me appreciate the varieties that exist in the Church, because I more easily understand that as the contexts and circumstances changed the reactions to Christ differed. Jesus didn't change, just how we related to Him. Does this help you appreciate our denominational and traditional differences within the body more?

8. It's easy to breeze by this one, but try to dig in. Who is Jesus to you?

9. Right now we live in a hyper-individualistic age, as Dr. Cox points out. He warns us of the troubles that can come from this mindset, but then he beckons us to "offer our individuality as a gift to Christ, to the Church, and to the world." How can we do that?

WEEK TWO | 14:18-18:37

MARKETING

WEEK TWO | MARKETING

You may or may not like it, but in today's culture marketing has become essential to a brand's awareness and success. With an endless supply of entertainment options and things vying for our attention, it's wishful thinking to simply hope that people will find out about a brand's services, products, or events, without some intentionality and/or investment. But what about churches marketing? Just because marketing is an essential for companies young and old, does it mean it's an essential for churches? When we think about the future of the Church, to what extent will marketing be part of its story? I'm a

marketer at heart, having started and founded a few different types of marketing firms, including a church marketing firm, so to me marketing is essential to people understanding and "buying" our message. It would seem the formula for a successful future Church has to include marketing. With that in mind, let's talk about it:

1. When you think of church marketing what typically comes to your mind? (e.g. church signs, church websites, bulletins, radio ads on your local station)

2. What are your thoughts about churches marketing? Is it right or wrong?

3. If you've ever been to a major revival or read of revival happening (whether long ago or more recently), do you know of any marketing collateral/advertising/PR that was done for it? If so, what was it like?

4. Does your church put major importance and emphasis on marketing? If so, what have been the positives and also the negatives of that? If you believe it doesn't emphasize marketing, then add up how much of the church's budget is put into promoting your services, events (e.g. website cost and maintenance, servers/hosting, printing expenses, social media time from staff, staff salaries dedicated to marketing, sermon presentation software and design time, podcasts, sermon or testimonial videos, photos of events, events for the community, new membership classes/marketing, third-party software subscriptions, Church management software, and the list goes on and on).

5. "If we give too much weight to marketing, we will fail." Agree or disagree?

6. What do you think non-believers think of churches marketing?

7. What questions do you think are most important to non-believers?

8. If a non-believer were to access the digital media your church produces (assuming it does; social media, website, Google/Facebook reviews, videos/podcasts), what adjectives do you think they would use to describe your church?

9. Read your marketing materials (both digital and print). If a non-believer were to see it and read it, would it make sense to them? Or is it filled with Christian jargon that wouldn't make sense? What if a Christian of a different denomination in your community who didn't attend your church saw your marketing materials - would they know why your church exists, or would it be filled with too much denominational jargon for them to even decipher the purpose of your church's existence?

10. How are you equipping your congregation to be marketers for Christ? Do you know if they are giving away Bibles and/or praying for non-believers in their life?

11. In your experience, has Church become a self-help organization, or are we really helping people?

12. How can you be part of the solution for the Church?

WEEK TWO | 18:37-19:38

JOURNEY BEGINS

WEEK TWO | JOURNEY BEGINS

"When you hear the phrase, 'future of the Church', what comes to your mind?" I asked all 80 interviewees this question. I didn't know what answer I was looking for, but it felt like a good question to get us started. I felt like this question would eventually lead to the answer or formula I was seeking. So, let's ask you and see where it leads...

1. When you hear the phrase, "future of the Church", what comes to your mind?

2. We hear quick sound bites in this section of several interviewees' answers for what comes to their mind when they hear the phrase "future of the Church":

It will be different than anyone thinks, healthy, strong, hope, relevancy, challenges, strategic, opportunities, generations, collaboration, effective, marginalized, innovation, can't stay the same, dim, concerning, our best days are ahead of us. Pick your top two and discuss why you agree with this description.

3. Based on your experience and predictive analysis, would you say the future of the Church is bright, dim, or indifferent? Why?

4. If you lean more toward dim or indifferent, then what do you think will bring us to the point in which it's bright? Or, is that even necessary?

5. Additionally, if you lean more toward dim or indifferent, how would you respond to Jesus' victorious comment in Matthew 16:18, "...I will build my Church and the gates of Hell will not prevail against it."

6. If you believe the Church's future to be bright, first how would you define "bright"? If churches staying open and attendance numbers staying the same or rising are part of your definition, then how would you respond to someone who brings up the multiple studies that contradict your hypothesis and reveal 80% of churches have either plateaued or are dying?

(source: www.malphursgroup.com/state-of-the-american-church-plateaued-declining/)

FUTURE OF THE CHURCH

WEEK TWO | 19:38-28:44

FINDING PROBLEMS



WEEK TWO | FINDING PROBLEMS

It's easy to point fingers and say this person or that church or that event/decision caused the problem(s) that we are dealing with today. But instead of gossiping about how or why we got here, let's try to intentionally deal with our own lives and how we can help with some of the very real problems we face as a body. Instead of guessing the answers to some

of these questions, why not ask the very people the answers affect? Without prayer, this section can cause negativity, gossip, and hurt, so please pray that the Spirit of God would fill you with remorse and repentance for where you have been part of the problem(s) and fill you with a spirit of love and action to be part of the solution(s).

1. What do you see as the single greatest challenge for the Church over the next decade?

2. What do you think most people struggle with most about the institution of Church?

3. We are currently dealing with some major struggles in culture (e.g. homosexuality, immigration, gun rights, racism, marijuana) that challenge many elements of the Christian faith. How does your church teach on these topics? How do you, as an individual, discuss these topics with those in your life?

4. What is your biggest problem with the Church? Does it have to do with the Christian faith or the institution?

5. At least 80% of Americans believe in God, and a similar number profess to be Christian, but only 15-20% of Americans attend church on a given weekend. How do we explain this gap? What's going to close that gap? By the way, I am of the opinion that to love Jesus means you should strive to love His Church, in spite of her messiness, which is why I believe closing the gap is important.

6. Are Christians living to a different standard? Are you? What is cultural Christianity to you?

7. Jonathan Merritt states, "It [death of cultural Christianity] allows us to be a minority, but to be prophetic, to be pure, to be the people of God who we were called to be, to represent Christ in a way that's going to look a little more radical, it's going to look a little more countercultural, but I think it will in the long run represent Christ better as a whole to a secular culture." Do you think the dwindling of "cultural Christianity" in America is a good thing?

8. Larry Osborne states, "We aren't reaching dechurched people here in San Diego, we are reaching completely unchurched people." What about your church? How would you describe the "spiritual knowledge/understanding" of those you're reaching?

9. Jerrod mentions that to him, Jesus was the Christian mascot. What do your non-believing friends think of Jesus?

10. This is hard, but think about, what do you need to unlearn as it relates to your presuppositions about faith and/or the Church?

11. To what extent is the Bible part of your service? Are you taking it seriously? If not, how can we change this so that the Bible is of greater priority in our services and lives?

12. What's an innovation the Church could use?

13. Tyler Johnson mentions, "We are so steeped in consumerism, individualism, and the idols of comfort, convenience, safety, and security" that it becomes very hard to speak to the heart of people, both inside and outside the Church. In what ways are you displaying a life set apart from these idols?

14. The Christian bubble is a very real thing. As Phil Cooke states, "You can be a Christian and never interact with anyone outside of that space". In what ways are you interacting with those outside of the Christian bubble? How deep are those interactions?

15. "Evangelical Christianity is very trendy by nature," says Jamie Rasmussen. What are our current trends?

16. What is the core of the Gospel? Do we teach it? Do we live it?

17. What is your single greatest concern for the Church?

18. Where is the bulk of your church's energy being spent each day?

WEEK THREE | **28:44-33:54**

INFRASTRUCTURE



CHURCH
ENTRANCE

WEEK THREE | INFRASTRUCTURE

Before ever filming a single interview, my greatest concern for the Church dealt with how large the infrastructure of the global Institution had become and whether or not its massiveness would lead to its ultimate instability. There are many layers to this section that go beyond just the building, and as you peel back each of these layers you find that the massive infrastructure actually is more of a root problem than we may have anticipated. But what are we to do? We already have the land, buildings, equipment, and staff operating these multi-million dollar liabilities each week, so what am I saying? Close down

church buildings? Stop the million-dollar expansion? No, I'm saying take a moment to pray. It could be that God called every church to feel a sense to grow, and that growth most often revealed itself in a need to have bigger and/or more buildings, but I seriously doubt that. Copying other churches or business models is not a sustainable strategy for the future of the Church. But let's discuss:

1. What is the definition of Church?

2. How have we got to the point where the definition of Church devolved into some one-hour experience that we do at a building once per week?

3. How can we build stronger communities? Does it always need a building?

4. When and where do you feel most connected to people in your life?

5. For the first 300 years of the Christian faith, early Christians never built a church building - can you imagine? Practically, how do you think they did that?

6. How can we make our church buildings more community-oriented?

7. How do we get more utilization out of our church buildings?

8. Jonathan Merritt says, "Every generation has to wonder what will our blind spots be? I think we'll look back at the church buildings we built and the ways we spent billions and billions of dollars in the American Church, and we'll say, 'dear God, how did we miss it?'" What do you think? When you and your generation look back, what do you think your collective blind spots will be when it comes to the Institution of Church?

9. How will we afford Church if less people attend and/or people earn less money?

10. Do you think we're embarrassed about asking people to be generous in Church?

11. Sacredness is vitally important to the Christianity - how do we incorporate sacredness into our buildings?

12. Are there places that are quiet in your church?

13. What comes first, wonderful community because of well-intentioned space or wonderful community because of well-intentioned people?

14. What are the non-essentials of Church?

FUTURE OF THE CHURCH

WEEK THREE | **33:54-39:46**

UNITY

WEEK THREE | UNITY

One of the symptoms that stems from the infrastructure problem is unity. It is arguably one of our greatest problems as a Church, and has been for a very long time. There's always a large swath of Christians, and non-believers, discussing Church unity. We know it's important, and yet there is absolutely nothing that comes naturally about it. It is truly a work of the Holy Spirit in each of our lives. With that in mind, let's discuss unity in our body...

1. Do you think churches have become competitors of one another? Is it overt or is it less obvious?

2. If you're a pastor, when was the last time you reached out to the closest church in your neighborhood? Anecdotally, I've noticed pastors being okay having a friendship with the most notable pastor in their city, but they've rarely connected positively or regularly with the pastor(s) nearest to them.

3. _____

4. What is your church's mission statement? Do you think it unites you with other churches or further pushes you apart?

5. Larry Osborne states, "It's natural that we break into various groups by affinity and by doctrine. The tragedy is not that we don't have a combined Easter service, the tragedy is that we talk trash about each other." What do you say about the churches/pastors in your city both from the pulpit and off the record? If you don't mention them from the pulpit, why not?

6. Jon Wallace challenges us by saying, "We've lost the ability to listen to those who are different...How in the world can you love your neighbor if what your neighbor thinks what they say doesn't matter?" In what ways do you practice listening to those different (whether Christian or not)? How do you engage in challenging social issues or do you not engage?

7. In John 17 Jesus prays for future believers pleading to God that "all of us would be one" as He and the Father are one. The fact that Jesus prayed this for the body should drive us to action. What does it do for you?

8. Read our prayer card that outlines Christ's prayer in John 17. Pray through it for the Church. Remember, you're not just praying for your church, you're praying for the global Church. *Prayer card is in the back of the book*
9. There are over 30,000 Christian denominations in the world. How do we explain this to non-believers?

10. How do you measure the "movement" of the Church?

11. Have you ever met with someone from a different denomination within Christianity? Why does our denomination seemingly matter more than belief in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus as the only way, life, and truth?

12. Glenn Packiam notes that "Oneness is not sameness, but it's saying, 'can we build a bridge here?'" How do we build bridges with other denominations?

13. Ephesians 2:14 says that Jesus "destroyed the dividing wall of hostility." It uses a past tense here, "destroyed." That means the victory has been won. We are already one - denominationally we are one, as humans we are one. Does that mean our disunity is actually real or is the enemy trying to convince us Christ's victory isn't permanent?

FUTURE OF THE CHURCH

WEEK FOUR | **39:46 – 41:32**

CREATING A HUMAN MIND

WEEK FOUR | CREATING A HUMAN MIND

No one can accurately predict the future, but it can be very tempting to think through all the what-ifs. Still, some people believe giving too much thought to the future is fruitless for today's challenges, opportunities, and moments. Although spending too much time pondering about the future can create more problems than solutions, it's still important to understand potential scenarios. Not so that we can create plans, but rather that we can be prepared. It seems to me that the Church is suddenly caught off guard by the circumstances that have occurred in the last decade. In our lack of readiness, we unwisely react to the

circumstances when we should have been ready to respond with a Kingdom mindset. But for some reason futuristic conversations don't happen in the Church. Maybe it's because we're scared of our dwindling numbers in the American Church or the rising trend of a secularized society that is seemingly okay living in moral relativism. The facts and trends do not bode well for the future Church, but that doesn't mean our future isn't bright. I really believe we can do much more to help both believers and non-believers by taking time to understand what may be on the horizon and actually addressing it in our churches and meetings with each other.

1. What future events do you think are coming? Don't be overwhelmed here – think specifically about what affects you?

2. When you think through the following futuristic subjects, do you believe these will negatively or positively affect the Church:

Private spaceflight _____
Virtual Reality (VR) _____
Robotic workforce _____
Drones for transportation _____
Driverless cars _____
Sight and hearing restoration _____
Clean water for all _____
Global Wi-Fi _____

3. Bill Bright, Francis Schaeffer, and Loren Cunningham famously came up with the "7 Cultural Mountains", which describe the seven areas of culture that influence how we live and how we see the world around us. The mountains include: Arts & Entertainment, Business, Education, Family, Government, Media, and Religion. Rank the mountains by how much you think they each affect society (#1 being most influential to #7 being least influential). Where is Religion in your ranking? Why?

#1 _____	#5 _____
#2 _____	#6 _____
#3 _____	#7 _____
#4 _____	

4. Keeping the "7 Cultural Mountains" idea in the back of your mind, the Institute for the Future (ITF) publishes a very compelling "Map of the Decade" each year (www.iff.org). I have personally read four "Map of the Decade" publications, and never once did a publication mention the Church, Christianity, or even Religion for that matter. It raises many questions, if the most prominent futuristic organization doesn't think the Church matters enough to even give it a mention, what influence do we actually have on the future? What influence do we actually have today?

5. In the documentary I mention going to a Ray Kurzweil talk entitled, "How to Create a Human Mind." Please note, he intentionally used the word "human" and he wasn't kidding. He believes "we are becoming exponentially more God-like." We must understand there are some people who have little to no moral objection to playing God, since God either doesn't exist or is simply not important to them. What would happen for the Church and your own life if humans

created what we thought only God could create, and what do you think would happen if God allowed for this singularity?

6. A "singularity" is defined as an event, invention, or moment that changes everything. 9/11 is a singularity. America cannot and will not ever be the same after that day's tragedies. Playing God and creating a functioning mind would also be considered a singularity. And although that particular version of a singularity doesn't sound very happy to a Christian, what if I posed a happier singularity? Let's say we found the cure for cancer, or more realistically, since cancer is specific to each gene and person that we found a cure for the top 5 cancers. This would be an absolute cure with no side effects you simply need the injection. This is good, right?

7. Or, what if we could manipulate genes well enough in the womb that we could do away with known diseases prior to birth – we could even prevent premature death in babies? Would you sign up for it? Are we going against God's will or riding with it as we simply follow what He has so graciously given us in modern day medicine?

8. What happens when even good singularities cause us to drift from God?

9. What do you think is the ultimate goal of humanity today?

10. A black swan is another way of describing a future event that changes everything. The black swan theory deals with something no one saw coming, nor did anyone see as even plausible. For centuries no one had ever seen a black swan in Europe and therefore it was universally accepted that a black swan didn't exist. That was until it did. Willem de Vlamingh made the first European record of sighting a black swan in 1697 and forever changed the European metaphor for "that which did not exist." For us this example can have profound implications when we think about things we thought were certain, but out from nowhere those certainties are shattered. What certainties in your life have been dismantled? Where did the dismantling come from (person, event, thinking)? How do you think your personal experience(s) of seeing the black swan in your life relates to helping others deal with shattered certainties?

FUTURE OF THE CHURCH

WEEK FOUR | 41:32 - 43:39

GENERATIONAL



WEEK FOUR | **GENERATIONAL**

I've been to many churches in my life, but never have I seen a church with a 25+ year vision statement. That doesn't mean it's necessary because I decreed it, I just find it interesting. Interesting because there are babies, children, and young adults in our churches who will barely be in their late 20's or mid 30's in 25 years. 25 years sounds like a long time, and in many ways is a very long time, but as many of us know it can be a blip on the radar. 25 years is a longer period of time than it took for Mars Hill to be birthed and plant itself in multiple states with thousands upon thousands of weekend attendees and then fall off the entire map,

essentially only to be spoken of as an example of what not to do. There are unfortunately countless other examples of churches that birthed and died in a shorter time frame than a generation. It doesn't mean every single church brand is supposed to survive generation after generation, some could easily argue attrition is good and keeps us constantly seeking God and His direction rather than building our brand's kingdom. However, it does make me think that some churches, even massive ones, think little about the decisions (both easy and hard decisions) they are making and the impacts those decisions may have on generations to come.

1. Does your church have a 5-10 year mission and vision statement? If so, write it here:

2. Does your church have a 25+ year vision statement? If not, would it be different from your 5-10 year statements?

3. Does your church create statements for itself, for members, for the community, and/or for the country/world?

4. Think about the fact that if you had a child in the past 10-20 years or are planning to have children, you are/will be raising a 22nd century child. Let that sink in for a moment. When you realize it could be your child that sees the next century, it makes you think a lot more purposefully about this entire subject. Our choices obviously affect us, but they can potentially last generations. How exactly does your church go about making big decisions? How do you define a "big decision"? (e.g. new buildings, mission statement, church leadership/governance, volunteer requirements, emergency protocol, outreach events, yearly budget, mission support, membership expectations, sermons, worship, small group curriculum, etc.)

5. Jesus constantly uses parables where small things become big/great (e.g. mustard seed faith can move mountains, seed planted in good soil can produce harvest, plumb line starts the temple, Zec. 4:10). In other words, seemingly small decisions can produce much greater/worse things as time progresses. If you had to analyze the seemingly small, daily decisions you are making (whether you see them intentionally or not) where are they leading you? Who are you becoming? When you think of it from a bigger context, who is your church becoming based on these daily, weekly decisions?

6. What is your personal vision for your zip code?

7. How would you describe "using people" as a pastor?

8. Do you collect info/surveys from your congregation? Do you really know what they thought of the message, worship, community experience, or do you only rely on those who email, tweet, mail in their thoughts?

9. Chris Brown states, "I think the best advertisement and the best vision for Christianity is not a statement 10 years for now, but it's Christianity done well now." What does Christianity done well now look like?

FUTURE OF THE CHURCH

WEEK FOUR | **43:39 – 46:41**

GETTING CLOSER

WEEK FOUR | GETTING CLOSER

We were working our way through filming this documentary and I finally decided to ask a question with "Jesus" in the question. Frankly, I wasn't getting what I wanted from the interviews about the future, and it felt like we needed to make a turn. But this turn to dive deeper into the spiritual realm came at a cost. The fight to make and finish this documentary raged on from the point in which I decided to ask Dr. Peter Williams, "Why do you think Jesus was a carpenter?" It didn't feel like there was anything to that question, but it clearly changed the direction of our film. We were getting closer to the Answer I needed to rediscover.

1. If you were to ask an apologist a question about Jesus, what would you ask?

2. In what ways do you think you haven't thought about Jesus (His creativity, His laughter, His dreams, why was He a carpenter, what was He doing during the missing years 12-30, why He chose the apostles He did, etc.)

3. What questions would you ask other pastors to help find a way to solve the issues of the Church today?

4. What question would you most want to ask your pastor?

5. What question would you most want to ask God?

6. What question would you most want to ask Jesus about his earthly ministry?

7. What question would you most want to ask one of the apostles?

8. If God asked you "what do you want?" how would you respond?

9. Have you ever experienced spiritual warfare? What did you do?

WEEK FIVE | **46:41 – 49:44**

PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS

WEEK FIVE | PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS

Nearly every sermon I've heard had points to it. Whether it was one point or ten points, doesn't matter, most sermons are based on a few point presentation. Ironically, I don't ever read Jesus preaching in points. That being said, I totally love points as do many others, because it clearly details the most important elements of a message. And there are many spiritual terms, which don't seem to have a whole lot of practicality or step-by-step instruction. It feels like Jesus is making some pretty major assumptions about our comprehension ability when He simply instructs us to "go into all the world and preach the

Gospel." Some people, like myself, respond, "How? Jesus, please give me the ten point sermon for how to do that effectively, and then I'll do it." So practicality is something we all seek, especially when it comes to the mystery of faith.

1. Write down all the staff meetings, initiatives, conferences that you have attended or created in the past 12 months – where did it lead, what did it create, how did it help people, practically? What can you measure from it?

2. Pray. Ask the Lord what practical steps you can take to be more effective in leading the people God has placed in your congregation or path. *Pray*
3. After praying, what practical things do you believe your church could start doing today?

4. What practical things does your church need to stop or quit doing today?

5. Write down a list (5-10 ideas) of what you think your zip code needs? Now go ask them, literally (at least 10 unique responses). How did your list correlate with what your neighborhood actually said?

<i>Your Thoughts</i>	<i>Your Community</i>
#1 _____	#1 _____
#2 _____	#2 _____
#3 _____	#3 _____
#4 _____	#4 _____
#5 _____	#5 _____
6. Find out what people in your church are doing to show the love of Christ, apart from serving in your church? How can you be a part of helping them?

7. Bonhoeffer once said, "The Church's role is to tell men of every calling what it means to live in Christ, to exist for others." With that in mind, what is a flourishing city and how are you a part in making it?

8. How much does your church serve or affect the businesses around it?

9. Do you know how much money your church spends to convert someone to faith in Jesus Christ? What about how much your church spends to baptize new or renewing believers? Take the budget and divide by how many people came to profess faith along with those who were baptized. For example, if your church has a \$1,000,000 budget and 100 people accepted Christ and/or were baptized, your cost per conversion/dedication was \$10,000. What do you think of your cost?
10. What are you worried about? What scares you? Is this what stops you from changing the norm?

11. When will it be enough? If you don't understand or don't feel the question applies to you, then ask yourself, what is "it" to you?

12. Jeremy Johnson encourages Christians to ask themselves, "Is there something that I can do that would have more impact than what I'm currently doing? Why am I not doing that thing?" What's your answer?

13. I once heard it said that the greatest mistake of the American Church is that we act as though only one person (the pastor) heard from God that week, because he or she is the only one who gets the podium. What if we started having our congregation actually participate in the weekend message? If you don't think that's possible, then how can we start knowing and sharing the God-stories that happen to members in our body?

14. If you keep doing what you are doing today (habits, work, relationships) what kind of person do you think you'll be 5, 25, 50 years from now?

WEEK SIX | 49:44 - 53:41

AUTHENTIC LIVING

WEEK SIX | AUTHENTIC LIVING

How's it going? "Good." I don't know if I've really ever responded differently to someone. And I certainly haven't deviated from my automated response to someone I've just met. Ironically, one of the simplest conversation starters that can lead to a deeper understanding of one another and a chance to be vulnerable and authentic usually only leads to conversations about the weather (e.g. Phoenix is a dry heat, but Miami, that's really muggy). Even though I hate how this seemingly always happens, I don't do anything about it. It takes courage to break from this mold and be real with someone. I've been discouraged when I've walked

away from a conversation thinking to myself, that person may never know how much I love them as a brother or sister in Christ simply because I didn't say it. But authentic living is more than just getting a conversation to go deeper; it's also about a deeper life, allowing Christ to conform you to His likeness, and intentionally living in the moment. So let's go deeper...

1. What does authenticity look like?

2. Who is the most authentic person you personally know? Why?

3. Have you become optimistic or pessimistic about the younger generation(s)? Why?

4. Look around the room and/or think of your church staff or the small group you are with. What makes each of them unique?

5. What do you think of "excellence" in the church? Is excellence an authentic expression? Do you think our focus on excellence week in and week out helps or hurts our congregation?

6. What is authentic community? How does it look? How do we create it, or can we create it?

7. As a pastor and/or leader, do you tell your own story often? Does your story include your brokenness and your desperate need for God?

8. Byron Klaus mentions, "The thing that is all too often a part of American life is that we believe we can do [life] transformation from a distance. The way that God communicates to us most clearly is in human flesh." Byron's statement is all too real when you go on various social media platforms and read post after post from Christians correcting people, judging people, and evangelizing to people through quotes and memes. I do it. But when was the last time, outside of a church setting, that you talked with someone in person about the Good News? Be specific.

9. What person do you hang out with that brings out your most true self? Why do you think that person brings that authenticity out of you?

FUTURE OF THE CHURCH

WEEK SIX | **53:41 – 58:23**

BY MY SPIRIT

WEEK SIX | BY MY SPIRIT

My natural inclination is to do, and more often than not my "doing" is a lonesome venture as if I have something to prove or need to save the day. It's very hard for me to let go of control and certainly have the humility to ask for help. Yet, many of us are facing a challenge or have a dream that is much bigger than us. This is what the Israelites were up against when their temple, which was destroyed, needed to be rebuilt. How would they rebuild something so costly and magnificent? Certainly there wasn't an individual who could do it. God makes it clear to Zechariah in a vision "not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit." We put so much

weight on ourselves to build His Kingdom for Him, and certainly we have responsibility, but we often forget that it's the Lord who builds the house (Ps. 127:1).

1. Has your church become more of a business than church? If you don't think so, then I would encourage you to have non-members listen to the frontend and backend of the weekly service, right after worship and right before everyone dismisses (first 5-10min and last 5-10min). What's being shown, done, or said during those usually non-preaching times?

2. How do we go deeper in our services?

3. In Zechariah God says "not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit," what do you think that means for the Church? What about your church?

4. Pentecost is the Church's birthday – do you celebrate it? If so, how? If not, why not?

5. Byron Klaus wisely reminds us: "Whatever the future holds, slickness and access to human resource will not carry the day." Are you relying on yourself too much? If you're not relying on yourself, then how much are you relying on the relevancy the world offers?

WEEK SIX | 58:23 – 1:08:25

LEADERSHIP

If you would like to be prayed with today,
simply stay in your seat and a member of the
Prayer Team will come and pray with you.



WEEK SIX | LEADERSHIP

You wouldn't have to walk far into a bookstore to spot hundreds of books on the subject of leadership, and that would be just a sliver of the thousands upon thousands that have been published. The idol of leadership and its principles have permeated every industry in the workforce. Some people have noticed the nauseating attention the subject of leadership gets, and tried to do something about it. Best-selling author, Jim Collins, literally did his research for Good to Great under the assumption that there had to be something besides leadership that caused companies to go from good to great. Ironically, in his five-year research study, we were given yet another book

on leadership, since evidently it was leadership that caused companies to go from good to great. Leaders get a lot of credit – when things are going well, the leader(s) is credited and when things go poorly it is the leader(s) who is blamed. It's a tall order. And it's one thing to allow for the power of leadership to create egos and ruin lives in the marketplace, but from my experience I haven't seen anything different in Church. The pastor, whether he or she wants to be or not, is on a pedestal. The pinnacle of any career can be the loneliest place in life, but I can't imagine the loneliness facing some pastors who have become the ceiling to their staff and congregation.

1. What if pastors unified? What would happen?

2. How does pastoral unity happen?

3. Write down or tell those around you your job description. How do you expect to do all of that? Why is that burden expected of you?

4. Do you share meals together with other pastors regularly?

In what ways can we kill off our ego?

5. Are people feeling overworked on your staff? Ask them. Have them anonymously rate their stress/overworked level on a scale.

I'm honestly great and feel purpose (_____)

I'm doing well and I feel some purpose (_____)

I'm okay; it pays the bills and/or gives me something to do (_____)

I'm in sensing burnout (_____)

I've totally lost my passion and joy to do this work (_____)

6. What about yourself? Do you feel burnout?

What can be done to avoid burnout?

7. At this moment what are you feeling God saying to you?

8. Darren Kitto says, "If you're not careful ministry can become a job...you spend your life trying to help other people reignite the flame, but if it's not coming out of a strong relationship with Christ yourself, you're basically telling them [congregation] form and function." Have you turned ministry into a job?

9. How are you investing in your family?

10. What is your biggest struggle as a pastor?

11. Does your church run in a "team" approach (e.g. everyone come up with ideas and activate on those) or is it more of a single leadership approach (e.g. senior pastor hears from God and then everyone follows that lead)? Be open with each other about the positives and negatives of the current way you're making decisions.

Positives

Negatives

12. As a pastor or church leader, do you feel connected to people outside of Church?

WEEK SIX | LEADERSHIP (CONTINUED)

13. Do you feel a constant pressure to be holy? What do you do to relieve your pressure(s)?

14. What deep relationships do you have where you can be transparent and entirely yourself?

15. If you were to leave your church (whether you're a member or staff leader), would you break the arm of the church or the entire body?

16. How do you keep Jesus the superstar in your life and in your church?

17. People interrupted Christ's day/ministry often. Do you allow for interruptions in your day, or is it entirely scheduled? If you allow for interruptions, how do you get things done? If you are entirely scheduled, how do you allow for God to introduce something/someone unplanned to you?

18. As a pastor, you see more that's going on in people's lives than almost anyone in society. This burden is real – how often do you encourage your congregation to pray for you? Better yet, how often do they publicly pray for you? What do you ask them to pray for you about?

19. Have we made Church too much about leadership?

20. How is your congregation helping you thrive as a leader?

21. How are you helping them thrive as individuals? If you're answer to this is "great teaching", do you think that's enough?

22. What's a story of a person in your church that recently occurred where they helped change another person's life for God's glory?

23. How do you collect those stories?

24. Do you realistically know what the job breakdown is of your congregation? If not, how do you know how to pray for them? For example, what if a majority of your congregation is a bunch of night club owners and they attend each week to feel like they did something good that week or what if they are all EMT's and see horrific accidents that cause them to question God's sovereignty.

25. Do you know if any of your members helped lead someone to Jesus?

WEEK SEVEN | 1:08:25 – 1:13:29

K I N G D O M O F G O D

WEEK SEVEN | KINGDOM OF GOD

It's embarrassing to admit, but I seriously could not adequately explain the Kingdom of God to anyone. I knew Jesus spoke of it a lot, but I didn't realize He speaks of the Kingdom of God more than anything. The Kingdom isn't just something that we're waiting for; it's here! We are Christ's Kingdom bearers intended to actually be doing Kingdom work here and now, not just waiting for our crown. The devil is waging a spiritual war against us as we aim to share our King's amazing news. The war has been won in our favor 2,000 years ago, but all too often we are living defeated lives. I'll be the first to admit that I really didn't understand any

of this, but now it is one of my greatest passions, because a Kingdom mindset brings purpose to my, and other believers', existence on earth.

1. What I originally thought was going to be a simple formula for solving the Church's problems was becoming more complex with each passing interview. My formula had developed into: authentic worship + great weekend experiences + dynamic leadership + great marketing + flexible building plans + small group engagement + community outreach...the list went on and on. You can't put the Kingdom of God into a formula. Have you tried to do this before? Are you trying to do it now?

2. What verses speak to you most about what Church should be like?

#1 _____
#2 _____
#3 _____
#4 _____
#5 _____

3. When you read Acts 1-3 and the stories of the early Church throughout the book of Acts, what do you see?

4. Would you say you are doing the things the early Church did? (e.g. sharing with each other, miraculous healings, growing exponentially, meeting daily, fasting, constant prayer)

5. What is the Kingdom of God?

6. Have you taught on the Kingdom of God? If so, do you believe your congregation could articulate what it is and how it's played out in daily life?

7. In your life, is God King or is He not? Are you doing it His way or are you not doing it His way?

8. What is our measuring stick in the Kingdom? _____

WEEK SEVEN | 1:13:29 – 1:27:12

JESUS IS THE ANSWER

WEEK SEVEN | JESUS IS THE ANSWER

I'm the kid who doesn't even remember when I accepted Christ into my heart because I was so young. I was actively involved in Christian services, and I was educated in Christian institutions most of my life, yet through all that I became numb to many truths about Christianity. I started hearing things so much that it stopped having an affect on me, mostly because I hadn't experienced the truths people were saying. But nothing haunts me more than how I blatantly made "Jesus" into a cliché answer, literally. My Bible teachers would ask things like, "Who led the Israelites out of Egypt?" I'd jokingly respond, "Jesus!" Of course I knew the answer was Moses, but

it was more about getting a reaction. Making this documentary truly changed everything for me about the reality of Christ as a Person, my Savior, and Truth. Experiencing Jesus is truly unlike anything else in life. I can't create a plan, book, or movie that will make you experience Him. It is the Holy Spirit who is in the business of revealing Jesus to each one of us.

1. Is Truth a Person to you or a list of solid principles?

2. If I were to ask you for the elevator pitch of the other major religions (Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, even Mormonism, Jehovah's Witness, and Atheism) could you articulate it in such a way that it would make sense to followers of those religions? If not, I would challenge you learn more about understanding what those religions truly believe.

Islam

Buddhism

Hinduism

Mormonism

Jehovah's Witness

Atheism

Nones

3. What separates Christianity apart for you from the other religions of the world?

4. How do you make Jesus the Answer in your life and in your church?

5. If you were raised in the Church, you know Jesus is the answer, but has He become a cliché to you? If so, ask for the Holy Spirit to give you a fresh experience of the reality of Christ.

6. What things have you made first in your life or in your church that should not be a first thing?

7. Are we trying too hard to be relevant?

8. Warren H. Stewart powerfully states, "The Church has made Jesus into our image and likeness and that's why the Church is jacked up." Do you agree? Have we made Jesus what we want?

9. Do you think the Church is on the wrong side of history? Why or why not?

10. What does it mean to enter into culture? To be in it but not of it?

WEEK SEVEN | JESUS IS THE ANSWER (CONTINUED)

11. What miracles have you seen happen in your life, in your church?

12. Think about Christ's love. Does it compel you? To do what?

13. How do you listen to Jesus?

14. If someone came up to you and had 2 minutes to hear the Gospel from you, what would you tell them?

15. When was the last time you experienced the presence of God? What was it like?

16. The verse of our film is John 6:28-29. Jerrod and I had felt so many pastors were hearing our story and were literally saying: "Jesus is the answer? I could've told you that! What else did you learn? What about the future of the Church?" I can't express how much hearing something like this only reconfirms why it was necessary to make this film. Although the answer is so simple and yet so complex, because Jesus isn't a formula, we were feeling pressed to come up with a "how" for pastors. That's when Jerrod and I actually happened to read John 6:28-29 on the same weekend, and both immediately felt it should be the film's theme verse:

"Then they asked Him (Jesus), 'What must we do to do the work God requires?' Jesus answered, 'The work of God is this: to believe in the One He has sent.'"

Discuss this verse. What is it saying to you?

BONUS MATERIAL



BONUS MATERIAL

There is a countless list of questions I could ask and you could think of to add to what we've already journeyed through. Many of the following questions came from actual interviews that I conducted. So, if you didn't already have enough to pray about and think through, here's some more to ponder over. These are in no particular order, and are meant for you to go through at your own pace.

1. What do you think people of 2050 will need to hear?

2. Globally people are suffering major social injustices. What is our responsibility when it comes to global social injustice, knowing that social injustice may be happening not far from our homes?

3. Is there a time to put strategy aside in Christian leadership?

4. What do you feel is our responsibility as an American Church to connect/collaborate with churches from around the globe?

5. How are seminaries (or how are cities/municipalities) in your town and your church working together to promote the common good? How can we make those alliances even stronger?

6. I'm someone who is pleased with the quality and quantity of my friendships and most of the time I'm quite introverted, so for me how can the Church make small groups feel less like forced fellowship and more organic?

7. Are we weakening the institution of Church by having smaller gatherings or planting churches (e.g. house churches) that intentionally reach fewer people?

8. How do we decide what traditions are important to keep and which we just need to let go of?

9. What do you think is good in culture that you can adopt for your church?

10. For Online Church - How do you ensure the quality is there and what would be your suggestion for church leaders looking to improve online engagement/quality?

11. In a city (urban environments) filled with workaholics how do you engage people into this place when so many things are competing for their time?

12. When the world hears news about Christianity/Church it is seemingly always negative - surely there are hundreds of positives stories to negative stories, is this something we should be concerned about, fight back, or just let it happen?

13. Will the next wave of Christian influence come from the pews or the pulpit? Why?

14. How do we unleash/encourage the creative potential that is within the Church?

15. How do we introduce worship to people who've never experienced it before?

BONUS MATERIAL (CONTINUED)

16. What are you seeing in worship today that makes you excited for the future?

17. How can we make worship multi-generational and multi-cultural?

18. There are certain songs that have really stood the test of time and still get airtime or playtime, why is that? What makes a great worship song?

19. Worship can be a very foreign thing to most people, how do you focus on making it inclusive rather than exclusive?

20. Mentor option: With all your experience, what's a lesson young pastors need to learn that took you a while to understand?

21. What is the biggest question you are getting today from youth/young adults and how are you answering it?

22. Why is the church not open 24/7?

23. If you have training in ministry, what fascinates you most about the life of Christ?

24. What role does innovation play in the Church? What are some ways we can encourage a spirit of innovation from the pulpit?

25. How do we challenge people when we live in a time where people don't want to feel bad about themselves?

26. Would you say the Church caters more to the needy or the intellect?

What is the socioeconomic, racial, language background of your church? Ask those various groups to provide you with ideas for how to build upon your diversity.

27. Who is the voice of the Church today?

28. How do we develop the next generation of Biblical experts to serve the Church and our Biblical-illiterate culture?

29. What is missing in the Church today?

30. Who is missing in the Church today?

31. Christians are oftentimes being disciplined more by culture than our churches (mostly out of sheer time spent in culture). How do we disciple not into a church brand, but into loving followers of Jesus Christ?

32. What does Jesus-centered ministry mean to you?

FOR THOSE WHO HAVE YET TO BELIEVE IN JESUS:

33. What does Church mean to you?

34. What does Jesus mean to you?

BONUS MATERIAL (CONTINUED)

35. When you hear the phrase Future of the Church what comes to your mind?

36. Has personal experiences of hurt or hypocrisy affected your willingness to want to understand if you believe the Bible to be truth or not?

37. Assuming you have nothing going on during a Sunday morning and you're well rested what is keeping you from going to church?

38. Where do you get your information about the Church? Do you question its legitimacy?

39. If you went to what you see in your mind as Church this Sunday, what would the experience be like?

40. How can the Church do a better job of attracting you to at least attend a service?

41. Do you think when you have kids and settle down that you'll be a regular church attender? Why or why not?

42. Do you think Church brings a positive influence to the community?

43. Assuming you can't change the beliefs of Christianity, what would you change about the way the Church operates?

TESTIMONY

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PRAY

PRAY FOR THE CHURCH

following CHRIST's prayer in **JOHN 17**

LORD,

may we and may you...

PROCLAIM

to others the way to eternal life found only in YOU, v. 3

PROTECT

us by the power of YOUR name and from the evil one, v. 11b, 15b

FILL

us with YOUR joy, v. 13

MAKE

us holy as YOU are holy, v. 17a

LEARN

from YOUR Holy Word, which is TRUTH, v. 17b

EXPERIENCE

perfect UNITY as a body, v. 21a-23

DWELL

in YOU that the world will know YOU, v. 22

REMEMBER

YOU love us, v. 23b

BE

with YOU where YOU are, v. 24a

SEE

YOUR glory, v. 24b

REVEAL

YOU to others since YOU have revealed YOURSELF to us, v. 25-26

NOTES

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