

LEADER CONVERSATION GUIDE

10 Things Unstuck Churches Do Right

Episode 116

These Things Don't Change with the Times or with Culture

An estimated 65 to 80% of churches in America are in decline, and it can often seem that there aren't any signs of health on the U.S. religious landscape, but in reality, there are thousands of churches in America who are accomplishing their mission effectively.

Over the years, we've noticed certain behaviors that churches experiencing health and growth have in common regardless of culture or the current times. These churches embody what it means to be unstuck.

Today on the podcast, Tony and Amy start a two-part series that explores 10 things that Unstuck churches are doing right. The first five actions that lead to health and growth are:

Keeping An Outward Focus

- Focus more on reaching people outside the faith rather than those who are already Christ followers.
- Be very clear about who you are trying to reach.
- Design experiences that people outside the faith would feel comfortable in and begin to address the questions that they are asking.
- Talk about inviting and building relationships with those who aren't yet connected to a church on an ongoing basis.

Multiplying Ministry

- Develop a strategy to birth new small groups and to raise up new small group leaders.
- Ensure that current team members have apprentices or people that are shadowing them while learning how to lead ministry and getting hands on training.

Valuing Generosity

- Operate from an abundance mindset.
- Utilize finances to be “for” the community.

Embracing Change

- Embrace the new, and have an expectation that things will change.
- Build a culture of change into the organization.

Equipping God's People To Do The Ministry

- Give people in your church the opportunity to really engage the ministry.

Next Steps

- With your team, take some of the following next steps:
 - Watch [More Than Ever](#), by Andy Stanley with your team. What are some reasons that you may have gotten away from investing in others outside the faith and how to help them take next steps? What are some strategies you could implement that will help your church to become more outwardly focused.
 - Check out the article [Measuring Church Health: How many people are connected in groups?](#) Do you have a healthy percentage of adults and youth in small groups? Are they engaging in serving opportunities?
 - Discuss whether or not your team is leading from an abundance or poverty mentality. What are some ways your team has displayed generosity “for” the community?
 - Read the article [No Pain, No Change—and 6 More Reasons Why Your Church Won't Change](#) together with your team. What attributes may be preventing your church from experiencing positive change?
 - Is the majority of the ministry executed by staff or volunteer leaders? How can you be more effective in equipping the church to do the ministry?

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