

LEADER CONVERSATION GUIDE

Simple Shifts: What Doesn't Need to Change? - Episode 239

Simple Shifts (Part 1)

Major disruptions over the last few years have left many pastors wondering if how they do ministry needs a dramatic overhaul. But what if rather than a total transformation, there were smaller changes we could make that will lead to greater impact?

We're kicking off a new four-part series covering the simple shifts that churches may need to consider to regain health in this season. But before that, let's try to understand **how we got to where we are today—and shift our focus for a moment on what doesn't change.**

Where We Are Today

This is certainly not the first time we've seen "church experts" advocating for monumental shifts. What's different now, though, is that we've experienced a lot of disruption in the last two years.

Now, mostly out of a sense of fear, we're hearing people calls for massive shifts, including:

- Going from fully in-person to fully online
- Launching church in the metaverse
- Moving to a micro-church model

All of these monumental shifts that we *supposedly* need to make are enough to make any pastor start to think: "This is not what I signed up for. Do I even want to stay in ministry?"

We know that to be true because an October study released by the Barna Group found that **38% of pastors were seriously considering leaving full-time ministry.** That was up from 29% in January 2021. And it isn't just older pastors—nearly half of pastors under age 45 are also considering leaving full-time ministry.

There may be many factors driving this questioning of calling, but among them is certainly this sense that the last couple of years are pushing the need for significant change in how churches engage their mission. Pastors are beginning to sense that they need to lead a completely different kind of church in the new normal—and we're doing this podcast series because we disagree with that assumption.

What Doesn't Change

In a world that demands change, it's helpful to **recommit to the things that will never change**. If you were to make a list of everything that will not change in your ministry, what would be on that list? To get you started...

- Jesus (Hebrews 3:8)
- The Word of God (Mark 24:35)
- God's plan for us (Psalm 33:11)
- Our mission (Matthew 28:16-20)
- God building the church (Matthew 16:18)
- Out eternity (John 11:25-26)
- The priority of loving God (Matthew 22:37)
- The priority of loving other people (Matthew 22:39)
- Our mission field as a church
- Our doctrine or theology that's the foundation of our ministry
- The core values that shape how we engage our mission

What do we believe at our core? What forms the foundation of our existence and purpose? Why do we engage our mission no matter the disruptions that we face?

Before we jump into what might need to change, let's focus on what was true yesterday, is true today and will remain true for the foreseeable future—if not for eternity.

Discover the Unstuck Process

For more than a decade, we've helped **500+ churches of all sizes** clarify their vision (where they believe God's called them to go) and their strategies (how they are going to get there). In everything that we do, our priority is to help churches help people **meet and follow Jesus**.

[Learn more](#) about how The Unstuck Group can serve your leadership and your ministry, or [start a conversation](#) today.

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