

# How Do We Break the Next Growth Barrier?

## Episode 400

Your church isn't declining ... but it's not growing either. You might be stuck in "maintenance mode."

Many aspects of ministry *look* healthy, but growth has slowed. You're not really reaching new guests, and fewer people are crossing the line of faith. What now?

In this episode, Sean and Amy talk about what you actually need to do to change course. They'll cover what it means to have a maintenance mindset, how to focus back on reaching new people and practical applications on how to break through the next growth barrier.

### Key Quotes

1. AMY: "Maintenance is often linked to this loss of focus on reaching the people who are currently not connected to faith or the church."
2. AMY: "The first and most important step is to assess and create a plan around your invite culture."
3. AMY: "If you want to get out of maintenance mode, you need to get clear on who you're trying to reach."
4. AMY: "If you find yourself in maintenance, evaluate every aspect of your weekend experience through the eyes of that newcomer."
5. AMY: "The weekend service is your part of the equation. You need to do your part in order for your church body to do their part, which is to invite the people that God's placed around them."

### Self-Assessment: How Are We Doing?

*A few of these questions may be answered best by an outsider. Consider inviting someone not connected to your church or your faith for a true outsider's perspective.*

1. How would we rate our current "invite culture" on a red/yellow/green scale? If yellow or red, are there any obvious or easy changes we could make?
2. Who is our mission field? Based on their age, stage of life, spiritual condition, needs and values, how well are our ministry strategies reaching them?
3. When we evaluate our weekend experience through the eyes of a newcomer, what changes could we make so that it is less insider-focused?
4. Do guests feel welcomed and valued when they visit our church? If not, what needs to change about our hospitality strategy?
5. Is our congregation filled with consumers or contributors? How could we rally them into becoming disciples rather than part of the crowd?

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