

Own Your Role: Breaking the 1000 Barrier

Episode 413

“I’ve never led a church this size before...”

If you are a senior pastor, executive pastor or board member, you’re not alone in thinking this. We hear church leaders say it all the time, as they wonder how they’re going to break through the next growth barrier.

We’re continuing our series on breaking common growth barriers, specifically helping church leaders in key seats to own their roles in getting the church over that next hurdle. In this episode, Amy and Sean talk about one of the hardest barriers to break through: **the 1000 barrier**. If you feel stuck around the 700 or 800 attendance mark and are ready for healthy, sustained growth, this episode is for you.

Key Quotes

1. AMY: “When a church reaches 800, I can guarantee you that the organizational complexity has increased dramatically from when the church was smaller.”
2. AMY: “One of the reasons this barrier is particularly challenging is because people have to change how they lead and behave.”
3. AMY: “When a church is smaller, doing is easier. And as the church grows, this underdeveloped muscle of giving the ministry away to the body gets exposed.”
4. AMY: “Breaking the thousand barrier isn’t just about systems and structures, it’s about leadership transformation.”

Self-Assessment: How Are We Doing?

Use the questions below to identify areas that may be holding your church back from breaking the 1,000 barrier, and then create a plan as a team on how you will tackle any issues that surface.

1. **Lead/Senior Pastors:**
 - a. Can your team articulate your church’s mission and vision? And do they use both as a measuring stick when determining whether to add or prune programming?
 - b. Is your team filled with “doers” or are they high-capacity leaders who give ministry away?
2. **Executive Pastors:** Do you have a clear picture of what your church will need as it grows in the next 24 months? What are the short-term goals you’re working on now that ensure those future needs are met?
3. **Board members:** If we don’t already operate as a governance, what are the intentional changes we’re making that move us in that direction?

Listen to the episode on iTunes or at theunstuckgroup.com/episode413.

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