

Top Challenges of Multistuck Churches

Episode 439

No one goes into multisite thinking, “This model isn’t going to work.”

Everyone starts for the right reasons: more people reached and more communities engaged.

But over time, tensions begin to show up. But it’s not just normal complexity; it’s the kind that starts to impact clarity and limit effectiveness if you don’t pay attention to it.

Last week, Sean and Amy interviewed three leaders about their experience with multisite. All three pastors made the case that *how you start multisite doesn’t have to be your model forever*.

In this episode, Sean and Amy reflect on the takeaways from those stories and start pulling out some of the common challenges we see churches facing in multisite.

Key Quotes

- “While tension is normal when you’re leading one church in multiple locations, some tensions you have to pay more attention to because they can actually kind of derail your effectiveness.”
- “Without a playbook, churches can lose the ‘we’ in how they’re doing multisite; it turns into us and them.”
- “People want to know what to expect when they show up; if they’re unsure what to expect, they won’t invite others.”
- “Multisite isn’t just about opening doors. It’s about effectively transferring your ministry experience and then sustaining that.”
- “Sometimes, the healthiest thing you can do is just change course.”
- “Enough churches have gone multisite now that we can predict the challenges that you’ll run into.”
- “You can’t execute a multisite strategy if you haven’t defined what that means for you.”
- “If you’re feeling tension in your multisite model right now, do not see it as a failure. See it as an invitation to get clarity, seek wisdom and make the pivots you need to make.”

Self-Assessment: How Are We Doing?

1. Where are we feeling the greatest tension in our multisite model right now?
2. Who could we bring in to help us determine a path forward?
3. Where do we still have ambiguity in our multisite model? What do we still need to define for greater clarity?

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