



# The Pastor's Planner

2023 Edition

# The Pastor's Planner

## A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO THE 2023 EDITION

In ministry, it's easy to let the urgent keep you from the important.

How many times have you started a week with intentionality, only to reach the week feeling unaccomplished and still unprepared for Sunday?

These simple pages can help prevent that. There's one page for each week of the year, with plenty of space for you to focus in on what matters and insights about what's coming in your church. You'll learn a little but plan a lot.

Here's a quick rundown of each section:

**KEY TAKEAWAY:** This is a simple place for you to reflect on the last week and capture a lesson learned.

**THREE OUTCOMES:** When you get to the end of the week, what results do you want to celebrate? Outcomes aren't tasks; they are achievements.

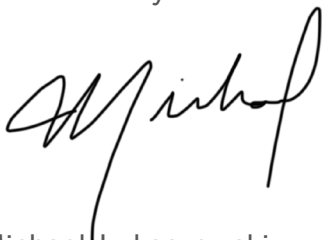
**ACTION ITEMS:** Jot down a few key tasks for the week, making sure they are connected to the desired outcomes.

**PEOPLE:** Remember, ministry is about people so ask God to bring three relationships to mind.

**THINK ABOUT THIS:** This short challenge is time-sensitive. It's meant to let you know what's coming and give you something important to work on.

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:** Think and meditate on this verse as you move throughout your week.

Each page of The Pastor's Planner is similar, but you'll notice timely advice matched to the season of ministry in your church. Print the entire packet or just the relevant page. Either way, 15-30 minutes of focus can really help you focus on what's most important in your ministry.



Michael Lukaszewski  
Founder, Church Fuel

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
▶				
▶				
▶				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:** 1 PETER 1:3

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead . . ."

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



Think of the new year as a nice, clean sheet of paper. The change from 2022 to 2023 might seem like an arbitrary marker, but the start of a new year is a great motivator for change in your own life.

What are your big goals for the year?

Don't scribble all over a blank piece of paper and pile on an unrealistic, overwhelming list of personal goals.

Instead, focus on a few areas and intentionally choose a select number of resources to help you grow in those areas. What podcasts would benefit you? With whom should you have a conversation?

[Click here](#) for a template that will help you create a simple personal growth plan for this year.

**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
▶				
▶				
▶				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:** 1 THESSALONIANS 5:11

"Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



A study a few years ago by the reading subscription service, Scribd, showed that 35% of Americans wish they could read more. If you're in that statistic, the second week of the year is the perfect time to create a reading list for the year.

You might want to think strategically about areas of growth or things you want to learn, rather than just buying whatever is popular or what other people recommend. And if reading isn't your thing, audio books are great.

Make a list of books on a topic you're interested in or fiction books that sound like a great escape, and then narrow that list down to a number that's attainable for you.

If you need help deciding what to read, we have a few suggestions [here](#) and [here](#). Get [The Pastor's Book Club](#) to get practical ministry insights on the best business books.

TOMORROW IS MLK DAY



**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
▶				
▶				
▶				

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



Tomorrow offices, schools, and organizations across America will observe Martin Luther King Jr. Day. As we reflect on his influence on the country and the Church, we'll leave you with one of his most relevant quotes for church leaders:

*"Let the churches stop trying to outstrip each other in the number of their adherents, the size of its sanctuary, the abundance of wealth. If we must compete, let us compete to see which can move toward the greatest attainment of truth, the greatest service of the poor, and the greatest salvation of the soul and bodies of men. If the Church entered this type of competition, we can imagine what a better world this would be."*

**VERSE OF THE WEEK: ISAIAH 43:19**

"See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
▶				
▶				
▶				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:** MATTHEW 11:29-30

"Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



Moving forward, especially during tough times, requires a growth mindset. Harvard Business Review puts it this way:

*"Individuals who believe their talents can be developed (through hard work, good strategies, and input from others) have a growth mindset."*

For church leaders, it might look like this: the leaders who have a growth mindset (instead of a "stuck" or "fixed" mindset) don't use circumstances, limits, or a shifting culture as an excuse not to lead, grow, or try new things. They look inward first, examining their own character and circle of influence, and focus on the resources they have. Then they adapt to lead in a way that overcomes external challenges.

To read more about how to have a growth mindset, see our eBook, [The Senior Pastor's Guide to Breaking Barriers](#).

**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
▶				
▶				
▶				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:** ACTS 20:28

"Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood."

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



When you invest time into the strength of your church's team, it carries you through the rest of the year. That's why every church should consider hosting a church staff retreat (or leadership and volunteers retreat, if that's more applicable).

Beyond performance reviews and weekly check-ins, retreats set aside time for building and developing your team. It can be productive (where you work on ministry plans and strategies) and, perhaps more importantly, just plain fun.

Take a look at your church calendar and block time for a staff retreat or volunteer event.

Stuck on what should be included in the agenda? [Click here.](#)



**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
▶				
▶				
▶				

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



In her book, *Resonate*, Nancy Duarte writes:

*"Getting ahead of the next curve requires courage and communication: courage to determine the next bold move, and communication to keep the troops committed to the value of moving forward."*


Depending on the day, your audience might be your church staff, your congregation, or your family. When you're a speaker or leader (or both), it seldom matters who you're talking to—you have to muster plenty of courage and continue to work on your communication skills.

This week, pray for the courage to take big steps and make bold moves when God prompts and wills. Pray to communicate with the people you lead and love in a way that inspires both unity and momentum.

**VERSE OF THE WEEK: JOHN 7:16**

"Jesus answered, 'My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me.'"






VALENTINE'S DAY IS TUESDAY. NEED TO ORDER SOMETHING? 

**1** KEY TAKEAWAY FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
				
				
				

**THINK ABOUT THIS**



Valentine's Day is widely recognized as a day celebrating love and friendship. You may see more reminders of love this week . . . on the end caps at the grocery store and all over social media.

Make a commitment this week to loving better.

Commit to loving everything you love even better.

- You love your church; how can you love her better?
- You love your spouse; how can you love them better?
- You love your children; how can you love them better?

*"Love is more than a noun—it is a verb; it is more than a feeling—it is caring, sharing, helping, sacrificing."  
(William Arthur Ward)*

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:** 1 CORINTHIANS 16:14

"Do everything in love."




7 WEEKS UNTIL EASTER  
THINK ABOUT SERMON  
AND PROMOTION 

**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
				
				
				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:** PSALM 25:8-9

"Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in his ways. He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way."

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



It's not a huge exaggeration to say that most churches create more content than a lot of marketing agencies.

Think about it. You're most likely writing a new sermon every week or expounding on insights from Scripture that your congregation might not know.

Why not repurpose that content to reach more people?

The hard part (writing and preaching the sermon) is already done. Now, it's time to be creative and get more use out of your sermons by putting bits and pieces of it in more places.

If you're not sure where to start, [read this](#).

6 WEEKS UNTIL EASTER



**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
▶				
▶				
▶				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:** 1 PETER 3:8

"Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble."

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



If there's drama, conflict, or issues to solve, they usually revolve around a "what"—what someone said or didn't say, what topic the sermon should be on, what type of outreach to do for the upcoming holiday. But developing people—the "who" of your church—matters more than the "what." Why?

- People are more important than programs and projects.
- You're called to equip the saints for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4).
- Ministries without leaders won't have the impact you want to see.

Start with *who* is driving the bus. Do you have the right people in the right seats? If not, are you working to help your people get into the right seats? [Read more about this idea here.](#)

5 WEEKS UNTIL EASTER



**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
▶				
▶				
▶				

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



There's a fine line between letting the culture rule your church and utilizing ideas from popular culture to connect with your church. We've said it before: *the best leaders can learn from anyone*. And wherever you look—whether it's to the latest viral TikTok video or the TV show that people in your congregation can't stop talking about—you're likely to find some truth, help, and ideas.

Which parts of culture are your people really into right now? What can you learn from it? If it's unhealthy, what can you gather about why it appeals to them and how you can guide them in the right direction? If it's healthy, how can you apply it to help them connect with God and Scripture?

**VERSE OF THE WEEK: PROVERBS 21:2**




"A person may think their own ways are right, but the Lord weighs the heart."

**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
				
				
				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:** PHILIPPIANS 4:9

"Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you."

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



In 2011, psychologists EJ Masicampo and RF Baumeister did a study concluding that "committing to a specific plan for a goal may therefore not only facilitate attainment of the goal, but may also free cognitive resources for other pursuits."

Translation: Plans eat goals for breakfast, and your best bet for seeing growth in your goals and having more capacity to pursue other goals is to make a plan.

If you're not sure where to start, break your big goal up into small pieces. Those are your milestones. Attach dates to them and go for it.

Goals are also a great way to manage people. Ask your team "what are your goals for your ministry, small group, or endeavor?" Then come alongside them to help them reach those goals.

3 WEEKS UNTIL EASTER



**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
▶				
▶				
▶				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:** 2 THESSALONIANS 3:16

"Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you."

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



Easter is coming up in three weeks. Do you know what your outreach plans are? If your response is, "Plans? What plans?" use the list below to help you get started. Jot down a few ideas and take it to your team to get Easter planning underway.

- **Outreach plan.** Will you do any community events or initiatives? Think Easter egg hunts or door hangers.
- **Sermon plan.** What angle will you use in your [Easter sermon](#)? Do you need any special illustrations?
- **Service plan.** What is the order of service for Easter Sunday? Will you use any additional resources? Consider post-service food or a [photobooth](#) in the lobby.
- **Follow-up plan.** How will you [follow up with guests](#) who attended Easter services and help them get connected to the church?

**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
▶				
▶				
▶				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:** PSALM 143:10

"Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground."

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



Any therapist will tell you that it's much easier to blame outside forces for our issues instead of looking inside at ourselves. The same goes for barriers that can keep a church from growing.

If you're wondering what internal factors could be stopping your church from experiencing healthy growth, evaluate the following:

- the people who are in charge
- the systems you're using (or which systems you're lacking)
- the type of culture you have
- your ministry strategy
- any spiritual struggles that could be affecting your church

[Read more here.](#)



# 1 KEY TAKEAWAY FROM LAST WEEK

# 3 MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

## ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
▶				
▶				
▶				

## THINK ABOUT THIS



Have you heard of the “blue ocean strategy”? We read the book on it in [The Pastor’s Book Club](#). Put simply, “blue oceans” are unknown, untapped, unexplored markets.

For churches, they’re new ways to do ministry and reach more people. And, thanks to the circumstances of the past couple of years, fresh opportunities are all around, and churches are primed to use these “blue oceans” as part of their overall ministry strategy.

For examples and a detailed breakdown on how your church can apply this concept for more effective ministry, [click here](#).

## VERSE OF THE WEEK: PROVERBS 18:15

“The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge, for the ears of the wise seek it out.”






**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
				
				
				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:** HEBREWS 6:10

"God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him as you have helped his people and continue to help them."

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



This week is Easter Sunday! You made it.

Preparing for Easter (and Christmas) at church can feel like planning for the Super Bowl. But relax. It's here, and guess what? It doesn't have to be the best Sunday ever.

That's right. Even if the technology malfunctions or the head usher is sick, it's okay. God isn't upset with you.

If Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection are preached at your church this Easter, it's a good Sunday. It's a good Sunday indeed because the Lord is risen indeed (Luke 24:34)!

What you need to do today is rest in that truth.

**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
▶				
▶				
▶				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:** ACTS 4:33

"With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all . . ."

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



Every church—yes, even the largest you can think of—is always in need of more volunteers.

Most likely, the way you "do church" and the needs of your congregation have changed over the years. And with it, volunteer roles should also be refreshed.

How can you create new places for people to serve? First, look for gaps:




- Where do you need the most help?
- How can you create specific roles for new people to step into?
- Are there people serving in outdated volunteer roles that no longer serve the church's mission?
- Can you shift people into a new role that matches both their gifts and the church's needs?

**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
				
				
				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:** ROMANS 12:10

"Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves."

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



Mother's Day is, of course, not a religious holy day recognized by the global Church. But it is an incredible outreach opportunity for local churches, and it's coming up in three weeks!

Use this special day to recognize and celebrate the mothers in your church—those who are physical mothers and those who spiritually mother and disciple other women.

Mother's Day can also be a hard day for many in your congregation and community, so the holiday is an opportunity to care for them as well.

Need ideas for recognizing Mother's Day? [Click here.](#)

**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
▶				
▶				
▶				

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



Eugene Peterson once wrote:

*"The most important thing a pastor does is stand in a pulpit every Sunday and say, 'Let us worship God.' If that ceases to be the primary thing I do in terms of my energy, my imagination, and the way I structure my life, then I no longer function as a pastor."*

You get pulled in many different directions as a pastor. Your tasks are varied and seemingly endless. It probably seems like everyone and everything is fighting for your attention.

As you fulfill your pastoral duties, know that you're going in the right direction so long as you remember to lead yourself and your people to the most important One: *"Let us worship God."*

**VERSE OF THE WEEK: PSALM 25:5**

"Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Savior, and my hope is in you all day long."




MOTHER'S DAY  
IS NEXT WEEK 

**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
				
				
				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK: ROMANS 12:1**

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship."

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



Struggling to get people to say yes to anything from leading small groups to planning events? Try taking the pressure off by delegating co-leaders.

In the same way that giving end dates to some volunteer roles makes people feel more comfortable stepping up, having a backup leader encourages people to serve because they know they're not in it alone.




Next time your church needs people to sign up for various opportunities, stress that they'll have support and won't be alone in their "yes."

# 1 KEY TAKEAWAY FROM LAST WEEK

# 3 MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

## ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
				
				
				

## VERSE OF THE WEEK: 1 JOHN 4:12

"No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."

## THINK ABOUT THIS



If you've been pastoring for any amount of time, you know that it's not all sunshine and smiles. Sometimes, you're walking alongside people in the most joyous moments of their lives, like babies being born and marriages being reconciled.

But there are other times when you have to walk people through grief. It may be with individuals (in times of death and relationship turmoil) or with the entire community (in times of pandemic or a local tragedy).

For a few tips on how to walk with your people through grief, [read this](#).

FOUR WEEKS TO  
FATHER'S DAY



**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
▶				
▶				
▶				

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



The image that many people have of their pastor is someone holed up in an office with walls full of books, studying complex biblical concepts for 12 hours per day. But what some fail to see is the pastor as a person who probably listens to podcasts, prays simple prayers, and watches some of the same TV shows they love.

You'd be surprised how many people would be interested in knowing what their pastor is reading, watching, and listening to.

Use this to connect with people in conversations, from the pulpit, and on social media. You could even start a newsletter to share what you're enjoying and help your people grow in the same ways you like to learn.

**VERSE OF THE WEEK: 2 TIMOTHY 2:15**




"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth."

**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
				
				
				

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



Have you ever wondered what's stopping people from volunteering? Sometimes people (incorrectly) assume they don't have anything to offer their church.

Break down the ways people can serve and share it to encourage them. Some people are good at working with their hands—what can they help create or build? Others can serve with their minds—could they help with sermon research, technology, or proofreading?

With various opportunities to serve and the diverse talents that are undoubtedly represented in your congregation, there's a place for everyone to serve.

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:** 1 SAMUEL 12:24

"But be sure to fear the LORD and serve him faithfully with all your heart; consider what great things he has done for you."






# 1 KEY TAKEAWAY FROM LAST WEEK

# 3 MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

## ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
				
				
				

## VERSE OF THE WEEK: 1 JOHN 3:1

"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!"

## THINK ABOUT THIS



It's almost time to recognize the dads! Like Mother's Day, Father's Day can be an opportunity for outreach, celebration, and care. And it's in two weeks.

How can you acknowledge the hardworking, servant-hearted fathers in your midst and those who fill important fatherly discipleship roles for people in the church?

And what can you do for those who may be hurting on Father's Day?

From a bacon bar after service to a time of prayer, [click here for a few ideas](#) your church could use.

**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
▶				
▶				
▶				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK: JAMES 1:5**

"If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him."

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



The thought of a ministry plan overwhelms many pastors, and rightfully so. Ministry plans of the past could be complicated, 60-page documents that caused confusion instead of providing clarity.

Zoom out from that type of ministry plan and start simple. Begin with step one: creating your church's purpose, mission, and vision statements ([check out these purpose statement examples](#)).

Ultimately, your ministry plan should help clarify what your church does and why. It should simplify what you do and assign responsibilities to make sure that you're not doing it alone.




Use our Two Page Plan template in the [Building Your Ministry Plan course](#) to create your plan and get everyone on the same page.

**1** KEY TAKEAWAY FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
				
				
				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:** 2 CORINTHIANS 4:6

"For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory displayed in the face of Christ."

**THINK ABOUT THIS**



The reason many people hesitate to volunteer at their church boils down to a lack of clarity. They don't know what the role does, and they don't know what's required or expected of them.

Consider creating job descriptions for your church's volunteers similar to the type of job description you'd create for a paid staff member.

Include:

- The role's title (for example, "5th Grade Small Group Leader")
- A description of the role's purpose
- When and where they serve
- The time commitment (for example, "two Sundays per month, 2.5 hours each")
- How long the commitment lasts
- Who to talk to if they have questions or issues

**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
▶				
▶				
▶				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK: COLOSSIANS 3:17**

"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



Most things feel lighter in the summer—daily schedules, meals, church attendance, even giving.

Many church leaders have deemed it the "summer slump" that churches see when everyone goes on vacation or just checks out of church activities during the summer months.

Although summer can be a challenging time, it can also be an amazing opportunity for community outreach. People are looking for something to do. Why not invite them to a fun event that's family-friendly and introduces them to your church?




[Click here](#) to read our summer outreach planning guide (plus five event ideas).

**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
				
				
				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:** 2 TIMOTHY 1:7

"For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline."

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



Pastor and leadership coach Dharius Daniels said:

*"Leaders should be intentional about improving their CQ. We need conversational intelligence."*

There's so much more to leadership than telling people what to do. Leaders have to be willing to dig deep and have intentional conversations with the people they lead. Conversations are the gateway to clarifying vision and expectations, having honest discussions about performance, or identifying skills and gifts.

And sometimes those conversations are challenging. For a free guide that includes 46 questions to help you with these conversations, [click here](#).

**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
▶				
▶				
▶				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:** MARK 10:45

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



Emails often get ignored because they're repetitive, sharing the same information and announcements every single week. But with a little strategy, email is a powerful tool for connecting with people and helping them grow in their faith.

You may have a church newsletter or digital bulletin, but try a different approach. Instead of blasting information, send authentic notes and helpful content such as, "Three Ways to Meet New People at Church" or "How to Make the Most of Work."

If you need help getting started, there are dozens of email templates in the [Church Fuel Resource Library](#).

**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
▶				
▶				
▶				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK: ROMANS 8:1**

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus . . ."

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



As a church leader, you've likely wanted to shout, "Everybody's a critic!" at least once.

In their book, *Pastors and Their Critics*, Nick Thompson and Joel Beeke write:

*"Only when we understand criticism as the Lord's sanctifying tool will we learn lessons our critics didn't intend."*

Isn't that a beautiful reminder of the proper place for healthy, constructive criticism?

It can be easy to get burned out on everyone's criticism and opinions, but remember—whether it's from a senior leader's rebuke or a tough conversation with a volunteer—God can use it to grow both you and the church.

**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
▶				
▶				
▶				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:** 1 PETER 4:10

"Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms."

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



Wondering how to make the most of your summer? Start with this list.

- **Invest in relationships.** Summer is a great time to say thanks by inviting people over for a cookout or some other fun, relationship-building activity.
- **Pause preaching.** If you're the main preacher, summer is perfect for scheduling a few weeks away from the stage. Call in other leaders or guest speakers if you can.
- **Plan for fall.** Get started on your preaching calendar, special event plans, and year-end campaign in advance of the busy fall ministry season.

For a few more ideas on how to best spend your summer days, [read this](#).



**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
▶				
▶				
▶				

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



Research by Barna from 2020 showed that the top two aspects that congregants missed about in-person church services were taking communion/Eucharist and socializing with others before or after services.

What does that mean for leaders?

It means you should make a big deal about community.

Share stories of how church members formed deep friendships in unexpected circumstances or provided care that can't be found online. Speak earnestly and often about what communion means for the body of Christ as a whole. Use what we know about why people attend church to help them stay connected.

**VERSE OF THE WEEK: ROMANS 15:5**

"May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had."

**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
▶				
▶				
▶				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:** 2 CORINTHIANS 4:15

"All this is for your benefit, so that the grace that is reaching more and more people may cause thanksgiving to overflow to the glory of God."

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



There is a power within a handwritten thank you note that an email simply can't emulate. They are not only an excuse to make use of fancy stationery, but are also a memorable, personal, and simple way to acknowledge people.

This week, think of people you normally wouldn't—the teenage child of your executive pastor, the church janitor and their spouse, the person who delivers pizza to the youth group every Thursday night, the company that prints the weekly bulletins. Make an effort to write them a thank you note. Even a short one will do.

**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
▶				
▶				
▶				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:** ROMANS 10:14

"How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?"

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



One often forgotten action that can contribute to church growth is participating in partnerships—not only with other churches, but also with community organizations, schools, etc.

How can your church help? How can you let the frequently underfunded nonprofits and schools in your area know that you're there for them?

Consider a campaign to fill backpacks with school supplies or sending a representative to engage in meetings about community concerns.

It's amazing how many relationships you can form and potentially connect to your church just by having an intentional presence in your community.

**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
▶				
▶				
▶				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:** MATTHEW 16:18

"And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it."

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



If you haven't heard of the "summer giving slump" that churches typically face, you might've felt it. When your church's income drops by about 20% between May and August, it can be a tough reality to face. But take time this week to make a plan.

[Click here](#) to read our advice on how to kill the summer giving slump.

And [click here](#) for a few tips to increase online donations while your church's most consistent givers are at barbecues and on vacation.

Finally, if you want an outside opinion on anything going on financially in your church, consider booking a call with one of our ministry coaches. The outside advice from a pastor who knows the church but not YOUR church can be an amazing catalyst.

**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
▶				
▶				
▶				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:** ROMANS 15:4

"For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope."

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



Are you wondering why people attend your church—some for months or years—but don't get connected (serve, give, join a small group, etc.)? Don't wonder . . . ask them!

Whether through personal conversations or a church-wide survey, give people space to share their honest feedback.

- How many of them may not have gotten connected because they didn't think anyone noticed or cared?
- How many are unclear what their next steps should be?
- Why are people visiting once or twice and not coming back?
- Why are people coming to a Sunday service, but not connecting with other believers throughout the week?




It's not a confrontation; it's a conversation, or at least the start of one.

**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
				
				
				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:** ROMANS 12:12

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



In his book on corporate prayer, *Prayer: How Praying Together Shapes the Church*, John Onwuchekwa wrote:

*"In prayer, we embrace the right posture of longing for His glory before His provision."*

As fall approaches, consider how you can rally your congregation together in prayer. Fall is often a busy ministry season for churches, but take time to pray before you prepare. You need God's provision in providing wisdom and you may also be in need of God's provision for resources.

Join with your people in prayerful submission to His glory and His will.

**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
▶				
▶				
▶				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:** 1 PETER 4:11

"If anyone speaks, they should do so as one who speaks the very words of God. If anyone serves, they should do so with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ . . . "

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



Next weekend is National Back to Church Sunday.

Which is a great week to focus on the story your church is telling.

It doesn't matter if you have fancy production equipment. It doesn't matter what medium you choose to tell the story (i.e. social media, video shown on Sunday, email). It doesn't matter whether you choose to tell the story of a dedicated volunteer or a once wayward youth group leader.




Tell a story that illustrates and illuminates the church's vital role in someone's life. Tell a story that will grip the heart of someone longing for community, connection, and ultimately, God's love through the body of Christ.

**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
				
				
				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:** EPHESIANS 4:15

"Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ."

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



The best and worst part of being a pastor can often be summed up in one word: *people*.

Getting to serve people and guide them in their walk with Christ is the best. Dealing with people's stubbornness, meanness, and overall sinful nature is the worst.

The same people you love to see at church one week can be the same ones making your job harder on a different week. It might serve your sanctification process, but it doesn't make it any easier. From staff to church members, people can be difficult.

[Here's a detailed guide on how to deal with more difficult people.](#)



**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
▶				
▶				
▶				

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



From back-to-school to wedding planning to holiday preparations, fall can be a stressful time of year. If you're looking for ways to reach out to your community and support, engage, or encourage them this season, try these fall outreach ideas:

- Write thank you notes to teachers
- Host a football tailgate
- Offer free oil changes
- Have a family photo day
- Date night for couples
- Back to school food or supplies drive
- Family movie night
- Volunteer for the concessions for local school sports
- Create a community garden, pantry, or pumpkin patch
- Tutor local students
- Provide meals for local sports teams or parent groups
- Prepare a community Thanksgiving meal

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:** MARK 9:35




"Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, 'Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all.'"

**1** KEY TAKEAWAY FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
				
				
				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:** 1 CORINTHIANS 15:58

"... Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

**THINK ABOUT THIS**



If you love preaching, casting vision, and serving people, but you're not into operations, technology, or planning—congratulations! You're just like many of your fellow church leaders.

But systems are crucial to running a healthy, growing church. And they shouldn't be cast aside because they're "not your thing."

Systems don't get in the way of ministry; they allow ministry to happen effectively.

[Click here](#) to learn about the seven essential systems that every growing church needs. When you're ready for a deep-dive and a guide to creating or improving your church's systems, enroll in [The Systems Course](#).

**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
▶				
▶				
▶				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:** ROMANS 12:4-5

"For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



Social media is the new "word-of-mouth marketing." To make sure the word that's getting out there includes your church, make it easy for people to share.

Write text they can simply copy and paste. Create a graphic they can post. Make it really easy for them to take action. When you make something easier, more people will do it. This goes for signing up to volunteer, attending events, and more.




Encourage your church to invite others using social media and make it a super simple step for them to take.

**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
				
				
				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK: COLOSSIANS 2:6-7**

"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



Most people who work in ministry have rightfully abandoned the thought of a "work-life balance."

You're typically on-call all the time. Pastoral care is never-ending. Your church is your family. Your profession is personal.

But having a work-life *rhythm* is possible. What you need to do is identify guiding principles that will help you create a rhythm for your week.

How? [Click here](#) to read our ten tips for creating a good rhythm in your life and ministry.

**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
▶				
▶				
▶				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:** 1 CHRONICLES 16:11

"Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always."

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



Do you spend almost as much time procrastinating on writing your sermon for the week as you do actually writing it?

Try these sermon planning tips this week:

- **Take time.** Block out specific time(s) on your calendar to work on your sermon and sermon calendar for upcoming messages. Don't take any commitments or meetings.
- **Ask for input.** Ask people on your staff and trusted church attenders to weigh in on topic ideas. What do they need to know more about?
- **Refresh and reuse.** Take a sermon you preached years ago that went over well (or didn't) and give it a makeover with fresh eyes.

TIME CHANGE NEXT WEEK



**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
▶				
▶				
▶				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK: EPHESIANS 2:10**

"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



Data is not the enemy. In fact, data, insights, and analytics can be powerful tools to help church leaders make better ministry decisions.

Analyzing the data on your community and congregation shouldn't replace the Holy Spirit's direction when it comes to how to serve people. And it shouldn't mean that we make assumptions about people instead of doing the hard work of making disciples.

If you want to read more about some numbers pastors should track, [read this post.](#)

TURN THE CLOCKS BACK



**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
▶				
▶				
▶				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK: 2 CORINTHIANS 9:8**

"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



One of the most challenging things for any leader to do is manage the many demands on their time. How do you decide what's essential when everything seems urgent?




We like to use the [Eisenhower Decision Matrix](#). It's a great tool for taking a high-level look at your tasks and responsibilities. With prayerful and strategic consideration, assign each of your tasks to a specific box.

**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
				
				
				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:** 1 CORINTHIANS 3:16

"Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?"

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



It's important to remember that every Sunday is someone's first Sunday. Let this reminder affect the way you speak to the congregation and welcome people to church. Remind your volunteers and staff, too.

And hold this reminder in tension with this piece of encouragement: every Sunday might not be the best Sunday ever. Of course, strive for excellence in ministry, but it's okay if everything isn't grand, brand new, or perfect.

Take the pressure off of yourself and your team, and simply strive to glorify God this Sunday.






**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
				
				
				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK: COLOSSIANS 3:16**

"Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts."

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



With Thanksgiving approaching, talk of thankfulness and gratefulness is all around.

But practicing gratitude is more than just another platitude—studies have shown that regularly practicing gratitude eases symptoms of anxiety and depression and helps people feel more positive emotions, deal with adversity, and build strong relationships.

It's also important to be thankful for the good things God is doing in both your church and your community. There are surely a lot of things that need work, but God has been good and will keep being good.




How can you develop a gratitude practice this week and beyond?

**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
				
				
				

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



Christmas is an exciting (and, let's face it, stressful) time for churches and church leaders. One reason is increased church attendance. We get to preach the story of Jesus from His birth, life, death, and resurrection, and there are typically more people around to hear it and make the decision to follow Him.

But it's easy for these Christmas guests to fall through the cracks if churches don't follow up with next steps quickly and effectively.

[Read this](#) for our tips for how to get Christmas guests connected in your church.

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:** ACTS 20:35

"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
▶				
▶				
▶				

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



“Social listening” is the process of monitoring online conversations about a company or brand in order to gain information to better understand customers’ needs and interests.

It might sound like a tool just for marketers, but this process can apply to ministry too. Simply taking time to “listen” online can yield powerful insights about your community that can then help you understand how to best minister to them.

Search your community or church’s name on news sites, Twitter, and Facebook to see what people are discussing. What do people need prayer, information, or resources for? You can even make this a weekly or monthly practice.

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:** 1 CHRONICLES 16:24




“Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.”

**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
				
				
				

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



Discipleship is significant and necessary, but it doesn't have to be complicated. As a church leader, your role is to equip people to do the work of ministry. One way to do that is to set an example—a living, talking, walking example of everyday obedience to Christ.

When you have a meeting, hospital visit, or coffee with another pastor, take someone with you. Let them listen in and learn from your actions. This doesn't take any extra time out of your schedule, but you're still teaching and developing people as you go about your days.

**VERSE OF THE WEEK: JOHN 15:8**




"This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
				
				
				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK:** MATTHEW 19:26

"Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.'"

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



We don't have to choose between following the Holy Spirit's lead and having plans for the future. We can even have a biblical view of planning.

As the new year approaches, make a plan. Build a ministry plan and be strategic. This is good stewardship and leadership.

And remember that the Holy Spirit within you is a part of that planning process. The Bible is full of people planning and God not only working within the plan, but also being part of the development of that plan.

TODAY IS CHRISTMAS EVE



**1** KEY TAKEAWAY  
FROM LAST WEEK

**3** MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

**ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK**

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
▶				
▶				
▶				

**VERSE OF THE WEEK: ISAIAH 40:31**

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

**THINK  
ABOUT THIS**



The last week of the year is a great time to look both back and ahead. It is an opportunity to reflect on everything God has done in your church over the last year and prayerfully think about next year.

Spend time this week writing down wins and thinking about next steps.

Capture some lessons you learned and how you can build on them.

Take a look at the numbers and compare them to plans and expectations.

You can do this with a blank sheet of paper, a whiteboard, an iPad, or the year-end review template you can find in the [Church Fuel Resource Library](#).

TODAY IS NEW YEAR'S EVE



# 1 KEY TAKEAWAY FROM LAST WEEK

# 3 MOST IMPORTANT OUTCOMES FOR THIS WEEK

## ACTION ITEMS FOR THIS WEEK

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

PEOPLE	MEET	PHONE	TEXT	EMAIL
▶				
▶				
▶				

## VERSE OF THE WEEK: ISAIAH 40:31

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."

## THINK ABOUT THIS



Join us in this end-of-year prayer:

*Lord, thank you for trusting me to be a leader in Your church. Thank you for Your sovereign, gracious hand that has built and sustained my ministry.*

*I pray that You will renew my energy in the new year and that I will minister from the Spirit's power and not my own strength.*

*I pray that our church and our leaders will be people of prayer and strong character, and I ask that You bring new leaders to serve in areas we lack.*

*Father, be my protection, grant me wisdom, and allow me to clearly see Your direction for my life and ministry.*

*I pray that I would remember Jesus Christ all my days and minister out of a humble spirit that desires Your glory alone.*

*In Jesus' name, amen.*