



## The Power of the “And”



The world seems to be changing faster than humanity has historically experienced. In the past year or so the way we experience and participate in church has shifted in monumental ways. Our mission, to share the love of Christ, remains the same, but our methods must evolve. Check out this month’s Church Hack that emphasizes the power of the “and,” as well as the shifts that are occurring in the ways upcoming generations engage with church. Before we unpack the shifts, one factor that will never change is the *why* of the church: **The Church is the one of the few organizations that exists for the sake of its non-members, the world.**

Before the beginning of time and space, as we experience them, God our Creator and Redeemer has been “on mission” to share his triune love and life with his creation. God the Father sent his Son Jesus to accomplish that mission, and Jesus disciplined others, who in turn disciplined others. We are part of a long line of those who are called to participate in the relational ministry of our Triune God.

This is who we are. Jesus sends the Holy Spirit to call, form, and equip the church to share in his ongoing ministry, which is fulfilling the Father’s mission to the world. The church exists because of, and for, God’s mission.

True unity can be found only as we draw closer to Christ, preach his gospel, and live as he would. The goal is to promote him, not ourselves. In each of the shifts we present, making much of Jesus and space for seekers and guests are at the heart of our calling.

### 1. DIGITAL & IN-PERSON CONNECTIONS



More and more, we are seeing the first step of engagement with a congregation to be through an online option, whether that be a visit to the website, checking out social media pages, or attending an online service. Digital options do not replace in-person connections, so we need next steps in place to invite those who have made digital connections into the life of the church.

- » **Next step: Post a digital connection card with your online service for guests to fill out. Then be sure to follow up with them.**



## 2. PASSIONATE PREACHING & SOUND TEACHING



A preacher is empowered by the Spirit and sparks a transformation that changes our perspective. A teacher is focused on information and outlines truths about who God is. A good pastor is both a passionate preacher and sound teacher. Information is shared that facilitates an experience with God.

- » **Next step: In addition to your sermon prep, review your sermon notes with the lens of, “Who is Jesus?” How is God’s heart and character being revealed through your preaching?**



## 3. PRESENCE & PRESENTATION



Our incarnational God longs to be present with his people, and we innately long for God’s presence. Intentionally plan an inspirational worship service where moments of silence, prayer, and corporate reading of Scripture create the space for people to experience God’s presence in deep and communal ways.

- » **Next step: Develop a posture of participating with God, not performing for God, on your Hope Avenue Team.**

