

LEADER CONVERSATION GUIDE

# Reset: Necessary Pivots & Why Leaders Keep Learning (Harvest Christian Fellowship) - Episode 229

## *Reset: A New Mindset for a New Season (Part 4)*

In 2019, [Harvest Christian Fellowship](#) (California) was one of the largest and most influential churches in the U.S.—averaging 8,000 - 10,000 in attendance over three Sunday services. Through the years, they've also seen more than 500,000 people make professions of faith through their crusade events. But their size certainly did not make them immune to all of the difficulties that the pandemic would bring.

In the final episode of our “Reset: A New Mindset for a New Season” series, Pastor Greg Laurie detailed the challenges Harvest experienced, the ways they pivoted their strategies and methods, and provided practical advice and encouragement for other church leaders.

### *Key Learnings from Harvest Christian Fellowship*

- “A church that has not pivoted during the pandemic is in trouble, because we have to adapt.” Jesus pivoted—he was on his way to do one thing, but another need came and he pivoted to the need in front of him. We too have to make appropriate changes to reach a changing culture.
- “We have to go to where people are.” Jesus did not say that the whole world should go to church. Instead, he said the church should go to the whole world. For Pastor Greg, that means “rather than beating people up for not being in church in person, I want to give them the best worship experience possible online.”
- We can change our methods without changing the mission. Even as they simplified their strategy and narrowed in on their mission field, Harvest remains dedicated to being a “WELL” (worshipping, evangelistic, learning, loving) church.
- In times of change, leaders have to keep learning. Greg put it this way: “I don't want to live in the past. I don't want to rest on my laurels. I want to keep trying to break new ground and do new things.”

- Play to your strengths, not your weaknesses. In other words, if you were a larger congregation and now you're a smaller congregation, stop running it like you're a big thing and run it like you're a small thing.
- Push ministry down. People want to know that they're needed. And when people start serving, that's when they stop looking at the church as "them" and it becomes "us."
- There is always more to learn because things are changing. Culture is changing. "The problem with a lot of preachers is that we are answering questions that people are not asking. And sometimes we aren't answering the questions they ARE asking."

## *One Key Mindset Shift*

Rather than focusing on getting back the 10,000 people who were attending the church before the pandemic... Harvest is focused on reaching the **next** 10,000 people.

Even with all the challenges in the world around us, they're not waiting for normal to return. They're not waiting for people to come back to church. They're engaging the mission that God has called them to all over again:

"We have to go back to our primary mission. We can never lose sight of that. We need to feed the flock, teach them the word of God, and get them on their feet to be disciples."

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## *Discover the Unstuck Process*

If you're trying to clarify where you're going as a church in this season, we'd love to help you find clarity about your future vision and the strategies that you're embracing. [Learn more](#) about how The Unstuck Group can serve your leadership and your ministry, or [start a conversation](#) today.

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