

## Big Church Small Church Podcast

### 9: Belong, Believe, Become

#### Episode Notes

Thanks for joining the *Big Church Small Church* podcast. In this episode, I discuss reaching people through a process of belong, believe, become instead of the traditional process: believe, behave, belong. Also, I discuss how the belong, believe, become process fits well with outreach communities.

#### I. Believe, Behave, Belong

The church in the past has mainly used a method of believe, behave and then a person can belong to the church community. To belong to a church, a person has to first believe in Christ and accept all of the beliefs of the church. If that person believes the right stuff and gets their life in order (behave well), then that person may become a church member. This makes it hard for new people to find faith and become part of the church.

#### II. New Process: Belong, Believe, Become

To effectively reach people outside the church, people can belong first in order to believe, and eventually the Holy Spirit transforms them. Christianity is as much caught as taught.

Giving people an opportunity to be part of the church first helps them to hear more about Jesus and catch Jesus in their lives. They can see how Christians live their lives differently.

#### Two reasons why we should practice belong, believe, become:

1. New people are entering a new culture of Christianity. We should be inclusive so that they can easily belong.
2. Mission is messy. The church should follow Jesus' example and meet people where they are at.

#### Discussion Questions

1. What is your church's current process? (belong, believe, become or believe, behave, belong?)
2. Based on your current process, how do you think newcomers feel?
3. What are practical steps that your church could do to help people "feel like they belong?"

I want to hear from you! Don't forget to email your questions, comments, and testimonies to [jonhunter@churchdoctor.org](mailto:jonhunter@churchdoctor.org). Check out [thesendmovement.com](http://thesendmovement.com) to apply for discipleship training for SEND Young Adults (18-29) or SEND+ (29+) or for coaching opportunities.

#### Suggested Resources

Stetzer, Ed. (2017). *Belong, Believe, Become: A New Process of Evangelism*.