

A man with glasses and a beard is singing into a microphone on stage. He is wearing a dark blue long-sleeved shirt and a purple strap is visible over his shoulder. The background is dark with purple lighting. A yellow rectangular border frames the text area.

Creating Space for Transformation

Life Action's Strategy Guide
for Church Leaders



LIFE ACTION
Church Events

The Goal

People become like Jesus in two ways—through discipleship *processes* and transformational *points*.

Discipleship processes involve the patterns and habits that add up to Christlikeness and kingdom-first living: things like Bible reading, church attendance, small groups, classes, worship times, or mentoring conversations.

Transformational points are change-agent experiences that come along less frequently but have concentrated impact. Some of these are brought about by circumstances (positive or negative) that God allows into someone's life. But believers can also intentionally set aside time for *points*—for example, by attending conferences, camps, or retreats, going on mission trips, spending extended times in prayer, or participating in a host of other “special moment” opportunities.

God uses both processes and points to keep us growing in our faith.

Question

How can church leaders facilitate needed points of transformation, when calendars are already full with weekly and monthly discipleship processes?

Answer

Create space for a church-wide POINT
of transformation!

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This unique activity will prove just as important as a vacation might be for a family, or an annual retreat might be for a staff team. But since getting an entire church to camp, or out on a mission trip, or even to a regional special event is typically unworkable, how can any “point” really be church-wide?

Enter a page from American history—and actually, from biblical history: the multi-day revival meeting.

The idea can be traced all the way through the Bible, from prophets fasting in the wilderness, to judges calling the nation together for a solemn assembly. God prescribed out-of-the-ordinary, clear-the-normal-calendar moments for His people, from festivals and fasts to pilgrimages and prayer events. These were designed to be times of revealing, worship, encouragement, repentance, and even revival, set apart from the norms of daily life.

Modernizing that tradition, by infusing it with forward-facing vision and targeting the spiritual renewal of every member of a church family, can create a point in the midst of a process.

What if our ancestors were onto something—an idea that would be revolutionary in any generation?

God knew that His people would always need times of renewal.

Today, church leaders can anticipate the need for this renewal rhythm and build it into how they schedule ministry activity, for themselves and for their congregations.

At *Life Action*, we've been facilitating multi-day revival events for more than fifty years—and we've been doing it inside of churches, with powerful results. In a high-energy, innovative conference format, we bring messages, music, multi-generational ministry, and mission into your church, for your church. We do this so that everyone, from the youngest to the oldest, can have a real, unhurried encounter with God and His Word. This point of transformational impact can forever change a church family, and can jump-start a sense of connectedness, unity, and shared spiritual vitality.

It is our passion to create space for this kind of transformation. We desire to help church leadership teams add transformational points amid the regular processes of their ministry calendar. And whether you utilize our solutions to help facilitate this kind of event in your church, or whether we can simply encourage you to build your own solution for the same purpose, your renewal is our vision.

Assessment: Do We Need Transformation?

We offer these questions for thought and prayer, to help gauge your church's current condition and potential need for a momentum-building renewal focus. (These questions could make for a strong staff or leadership team meeting conversation!)

1. How unified and mission-focused does our church feel right now?
2. When was the last time we had a focus on spiritual renewal? What were the results?
3. Is our ministry participation rate where we want it to be? What will change that rate going forward?
4. What percentage of the congregation is involved in discipleship processes beyond worship services? How are we planning to increase that percentage? Are those processes proving to be effective?
5. What is the spiritual condition of the young people in our church family?
6. How connected are people feeling to the church family, and how are we planning to increase that sense of connection?
7. How much new believer growth has our church experienced in recent months?
8. If we were to announce an all-church spiritual renewal focus, how do we anticipate that various sub-groups of our church might respond to it?

How You Can Create Space for Transformation

Setting aside time for spiritual renewal begins with a commitment to seek God and a willingness to do the work of creating a unique context. This pathway, while not exhaustive, offers wisdom from *Life Action's* years of experience facilitating renewal events.

1. Talk to your leadership team.

To create a truly church-wide experience, it is important to have as many leaders and influencers on board as possible. These voices will be needed not only to support the initiative, but also to support the temporary pause of “normal” ministry for the selected time period. During this conversation, it is helpful to share from God’s Word about the importance of festivals, celebrations, and special events, and also to share hope for renewed vitality and momentum in the church as a result of taking action.

2. Select the best time and duration.

Being sensitive to seasonal dynamics in your culture, select a period of time (*Life Action* recommends between four days and two weeks) when the church will give its best focus to renewing faith, reprioritizing mission, and spending time with the Lord and each other. (Our experience has been that beginning a multi-day event on Sunday morning maximizes participation.)

3. Plan for maximum engagement.

Bringing the entire church family together isn't just a feat of calendar clearing, but also of planning to meet various needs. Ask questions like: How can children and teens engage in appropriate ways? What kind of content will inspire our people to action and transformational decisions? What tools will we use to make the experience memorable and interactive? What expectations do we want to raise so that people from various demographic groups can all look forward eagerly to participating? What lessons should we learn from other churches that have set aside time like this? How can we free up our usual volunteer and staff teams so they can benefit from the activities and the sense of renewal?

4. Fully participate.

This concentrated time of church body life and togetherness will provide a powerful opportunity for leaders to lead, not only by words, but also by example. Ideally, all leaders will be present, intentional, and positive. When it comes to taking steps forward, sharing testimonies, and practicing humility, leaders (especially pastors) get to go first!

5. Celebrate God's work.

As people step forward into a refreshed relationship with the Lord, provide contexts for them to share testimonies or commitments with others around them. The more interactive your renewal event can be, the more lasting results it will likely produce. Of course, the spiritual results are in God's hands; but on a practical level, we want to be faithful to set the stage for His work, and for the attention and interest of our congregation.

You Can Do It, and We Can Help!

As much as you'd love to have a transformational event that would impact your church, build shared experiences together, and accelerate disciple-making . . .

You might be wondering: **"Do I really have to time to lead this?"**

Here's the good news: *Life Action* is willing to do the work!

Our teams are equipped to deliver Bible-centered preaching, quality worship music, energetic children and student ministries, spiritual health assessments, staff leadership coaching, and more.

We will work with you to create space for transformation, and then challenge your church to re-engage in discipleship, outreach, missions, hospitality, generosity, and service going forward.

**Begin by exploring church
events at LifeAction.org,**

or talk with us today by emailing MMesser@LifeAction.org.

Bonus:

Would you like to take a personal spiritual assessment, to gauge your own need for transformation?

Download *Life Action's Complete Spiritual* here,
or go to LifeAction.org/CompleteSpiritual.