



**SUREFIRE WAYS**

**TO INCREASE ENGAGEMENT**

**IN WORSHIP SERVICES**

If forced to guess, I'd suspect you want more visitors. But even more important, you want visitors to STAY and get plugged into purpose at your church.

Engagement is the key that unlocks the stairway from outside guest to insider, from visitor to invested, and from attendee to disciple. *Below are five surefire ways to increase it at your church.*

## ENGAGEMENT:

the difference between a looky-loo visitor and a committed member and follower of Christ.



# A NARRATIVE EXPERIENCE

People respond to stories. They want to make an emotional connection that speaks to their life experience. When people can relate, they are able to engage on a personal, visceral, emotional, and intellectual level.

If all you offer are mental or spiritual pursuits devoid of context, people will reside in the area of their rational mind. But when you open up the story of your church, they are able to step into a whole new world, where they get a sense of belonging.

*Tell the story of your church by casting vision, celebrating victories, sharing real-life stories, and hinting at behind-the-scenes aspects of church operations.*

# GET THEM MOVING

People want to have real life interactions at church, but not too much! It's akin to making sure you greet everyone warmly, but not intrusively. In many churches, there is a time to "stand up and greet someone". This has largely faded away in most non-denominational and mega churches or remained absent in many mainline churches. Why? Because it makes some people uncomfortable. Nonetheless, there is still room for real community interactions that get your people moving, so they feel like they are participating in the activities of the church.



Don't abandon the greeting period of a worship service completely. Conversely, don't feel the need to do it every week. As space and time allow, work in opportunities for people to get up and interact with each other. But, here's a tip, instead of leaving newcomers and introverts panicking at the thought of striking up a mini-convo with a total stranger, offer clear and brief direction so anyone can engage without the awkwardness. For example: tell your audience to turn to their neighbor and say a specific line or phrase that corresponds with your theme or message. You could also use this time to cast vision. If your church is on mission to (let's just say) Love God and make disciples; have everyone turn to their neighbor and say, "I'm a disciple-maker". And leave it at that. The goal here is to *get people moving, but don't leave them hanging*. Be creative and make it a fun all-play moment.

# TRANSITION SMOOTHLY

Abrupt changes in life cause people to disconnect. The same is true in a worship service. If lights flash on instead of fade in, if volume cuts out, if the platform is left empty while the next person is making their way to the stage, if the video doesn't start on time... You get the picture. Been there before?

All these abrupt or even silent moments between elements of your worship service give people a reason to disconnect, check their phone, worry about work, talk with their spouse, or start looking at the handout and get distracted for the next 15 minutes.

**We know you're not trying to put on a Broadway show, but when you make the effort to keep timing and transitions smooth, you *take your people on a journey that doesn't let them down.***



# CALL TO ACTION

People want to be part of something. If all your offering is a seat with a view, so they can watch the "professionals", they can find that online. The reason people come to your church, during coveted weekend time, to listen to less than the best worship music and messages, is because it's real; and they get to be part of it.

God is drawing people to your church to BE the church, not to watch it. But often, leaders are afraid to ask people to step into the very purpose for which God has brought them there.

Give people a call to action. Have them share a post, use the Connect App to write an encouraging message in their group, make a donation, or write down a goal, all during the weekend worship service. The collective effort produces encouragement and buy-in.

**Whatever you do, don't miss an opportunity for impact. Instead *call your people into something bigger than themselves by taking an action beyond the status quo.***

# BEFORE & BEYOND SUNDAY

Much of the narrative and engagement people will experience on Sunday is supported by Body life all week long. A great way to stay engaged throughout the week is with the Connect App from Realm. It allows people to interact in groups, share prayer requests, work through resources, manage giving, find and connect with other members, and just about anything you'd need to assist in community building throughout the week.



Just one way the Connect App can increase engagement is by sharing message teasers (before) and follow up questions or notes (after) from your message. Now, people are readying themselves for what's to come and digesting the experience beyond Sunday morning.

Get the Connect App - and everything you need for total church communication and management - by getting Realm. Sign up for a [demo](#) or take the [self-guided tour](#) today!

**AN ENGAGED AUDIENCE IS  
MOBILIZED FORCE. WE HOPE  
THIS HELPS YOU MOVE  
MINISTRY FORWARD!**

# Real ideas for real ministry impact.

This guide is brought to you courtesy of ACS Technologies. We're excited to share more information with you about our new ministry tool, Realm.

Realm offers something for everyone in your church. It is a totally new type of church ministry software that combines administration, accounting, and community into one system. It also connects your entire church and personalizes each person's involvement in your ministry.

People in your church and on staff will love Realm. They can access it online or from their phones whenever they want. It's quick, user-friendly, and simple to get started. Plus, we've got a dedicated team to make it a smooth transition and guide you the rest of the way.



Your all-in-one software solution for community, giving, check-in, and total church management designed to help you move ministry forward.

[www.realmchurch.com](http://www.realmchurch.com)

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[www.realmchurch.com](http://www.realmchurch.com)



## Administration

- Track what impacts your ministry
- Modernize church giving
- Host organized events
- Know who's coming and going
- Generate insightful reports



## Accounting

- Organize your finances
- Maintain vendor relationships
- Pay bills and write checks
- Reconcile your accounts
- Plan and monitor budgets



## Community

- Put names to faces
- Connect people in smaller groups
- Facilitate communication
- Shepherd people through life
- Grow your outreach potential

Three easy ways to learn how Realm can help your church:

- 1 Attend: You're invited to attend a live Realm demo. Just pick the day and time that's best for you [realmchurch.com/demo](http://realmchurch.com/demo)
- 2 Watch: Take a quick look into Realm. Visit [realmchurch.com](http://realmchurch.com)
- 3 Talk: Ask us anything. We're here to help.  
Call 1(800)736-7425 or email [solutions@acstechnologies.com](mailto:solutions@acstechnologies.com)

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