



EVENT SCRIPT

Green text – Communicator content

Black text – “Taking A Step” booklet content

Welcome

- ❖ Welcome to Next and thank you for taking the time to join us this morning. My name is _____ and I serve as _____ at _____ church. Our goal for this time is twofold. First, we hope you will leave today with an understanding of the mission and strategy of our church. Secondly, we want you to leave knowing how to take whatever the next appropriate step is for you.

Introduce booklet

- ❖ You were handed a packet when you came in this morning. Hopefully you have had time to fill out the information card included in that packet. If not, we would love to get that from you before you leave. I will eventually explain all the contents in the packet, but for now, would you please pull out the booklet that says “Taking A Step” on the cover and turn to the first page. You can read a brief history of our church. But, probably the most important part of our founding is that our primary goal from the very beginning has been to create a church for people who do not go to church.

HISTORY

We believe that just like Jesus, the local church should be irresistible. People should want to wake up on Sunday morning and go to church. Our desire is to be people’s number one option on Sunday morning, first because of what we do and ultimately because of what we believe.

This vision took shape in 1996 when a team of leaders founded North Point Community Church as a church **for people who do not go to church**. In 2001 Buckhead Church was launched in response to a group of people that wanted to see their friends and neighbors connect or reconnect with God. Expansion continued in 2006 with the opening of Browns Bridge Community Church in Cumming to meet the needs of our growing congregation. We have also formed strategic partnerships with churches, both domestically and internationally, to expand the influence of North Point Ministries.

A Relationship With Christ

- ❖ There are essentially three aspects that have informed our mission statement. The first is the priority of a relationship with Christ. We decided that above all else, our goal was to introduce people to Jesus and encourage a relationship with Him.

Three vitals

- ❖ Second, is translating that into something more tangible. What does it look like when someone has a growing relationship with Jesus Christ? We decided to define that according to three pursuits, we refer to these as our *three vital relationships*. Those are, intimacy with God, community with insiders (meaning other believers) and influence with people outside the faith. If a person can say at any point in their maturing process that they are growing in these three areas we believe that that individual is in a growing relationship with Christ. Knowing the Bible is important, but knowledge is a means to an end not the end in itself. In this way we defined spiritual growth more by how a person loves than exclusively what they know.

Creating environments

- ❖ Lastly, was the realization that we as a church could do nothing to make people grow relationally. The only thing, and best thing, we could do is to partner with the Holy Spirit in asking what was the best environment for these relationships to be encouraged. So, we decided to focus our energy on creating environments where the Holy Spirit is free to encourage growth in individuals. Every environment is created by examining what would be *appealing, engaging, and helpful* for the particular group that is attending. What is the best environment for children? Students? Singles? Couples?

Our Missions statement

- ❖ These three elements have been crafted into our mission and strategy statement. It is found on page two of your booklet, “Our mission is to lead people into a *growing relationship with Jesus Christ* by *creating environments* where people are encouraged and equipped to pursue, intimacy with God, community with insiders, and influence with outsiders.”

MISSION & STRATEGY

Our mission is to lead people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ by creating environments where people are encouraged and equipped to pursue:

- *Intimacy with God*
- *Community with insiders*
- *Influence with outsiders*

RESPONSIBILITY

- ❖ Our responsibility as a church is to **create environments**.
- ❖ God's responsibility is to **change lives**.
- ❖ The environments we create are designed to reflect rooms in your home.

We have organized our environments into three categories, which are best described as rooms in our homes. Let's listen to Andy describe these environments.

Transition to Video

ENVIRONMENTS

Foyer

- Foyer environments are designed for **guests**.
- Our goal for the foyer is that people would **enjoy** it and **return**.
- Our primary Foyer environment is the weekend worship service.

Living Room

- Living room environments are for people to meet **friends**.
- In the living room we want people to **connect**.
- The primary living room environment for singles is Fusion, Married Life Live, and strategic service teams.

Kitchen

- Kitchen environments are where people become **family**.
- In the kitchen, we want people to experience **community**.
- Our primary kitchen environments are Starting Point and Community Groups.

Transition to Simplicity

- ❖ One question you may ask is why such a big church doesn't have more programs. The reason is that we believe that the temptation for any organization or church over time is to drift into greater complexity causing them to sacrifice doing a few things well. For this reason, our church is committed not to add any new programs unless they are very obvious, easy and strategic steps towards the Kitchen. This forces us to say no to a lot of good things in order to stay focused on what we feel is most important.

✦SIMPLICITY

The tendency for any organization, including churches, is to grow more complex over time. In an effort to resist this tendency, our church will always value simplicity in programming and strategy.

Transition to What's Next?

- ❖ I know each of you here this morning is at a different place. For some, you are here just checking things out to understand more what this place is all about. For others, you have seen and heard enough and you just want to know where to get plugged in.
- ❖ For those of you just checking things out there is no pressure to do anything. We want people to take as much time as they need to make up their mind if they want to be a part of our church.
- ❖ However, for those of you who have already reached that point and decided this is going to be your church, we are asking two things of you. First, we want you to take an appropriate step towards community and secondly we want you to find a place to serve. Essentially we are asking you to *take a step and join a team*.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Take a Step

- ❖ After experiencing the foyer environment, our desire is that you would take the next appropriate step.

Join a Team

- ❖ Serving is a great way to connect immediately with others. No matter what your interests are, there is always a service opportunity for you.

TAKE A STEP

(Floor Plan Graphic)

Taking a Step

- ❖ Taking a step can look different depending on where you are...
 - **Starting Point Orientation:** Some of you are looking for a place where you can get some questions answered regarding the Christian faith. For you the best next step is to attend a SP orientation where you have the option of signing up for a ten week facilitated discussion with others who are asking similar questions.
 - ***in:Fusion:*** If you are single and you want to meet a group of about fifty other singles that are in the same general stage of life as you, then *in:Fusion* is a great next step for you. Fusion meets five times over a three-month period, and it allows you to connect with others at the same place you are.
 - **GroupLink:** Maybe you are ready to try a community group. For those of you who want to take that step we have GroupLink. GroupLink is an environment that connects married couples, singles and ladies into starter groups that will meet for eight weeks that then determine if they then want to continue on for twelve to twenty-four months.
 - **Strategic service:** One way to kill two birds with one stone is to join a strategic service team. Our teams provide not only a place to serve, but it also allows you to get to know a smaller group of people better while you serve together.

Join a Team

- ❖ So first, we want people to take a step of some kind from the foyer into the next appropriate level of community. Secondly, we want everyone to find a place to serve. We have a variety of teams and each team has a variety of roles.
 - Example - Upstreet: For example, maybe you are interested in serving with the elementary students in our Upstreet environment. Upstreet has a variety of roles from people greeting families, to small group leaders.
 - The same goes for Waumba Land, Students, and Host team
- ❖ Don't worry if you are not yet sure what exactly the best fit is for you. Just start somewhere. These are not appointments for life. If one role turns out not to be your thing, we will help find a better opportunity for you. The important thing to remember is that we have a place that everyone can serve.

Info card

- ❖ Some of you already know where you are interested in serving. If you fit that description, I would encourage you to turn over your information card and check the area(s) that you are interested in serving. Checking off a ministry does not automatically sign you up for that ministry. It simply lets our staff know that you have an interest in becoming a volunteer. You can expect to be contacted by a staff member in the next few days to discuss your interest.

- ❖ If you are not sure where you should serve or you just want more information on a particular program, we have provided information cards for each ministry. Each ministry card has a section that describes the program, tells you how you can connect, information on how you can volunteer, and whom you can contact.

Thanks and good-bye

- ❖ Lastly, there are two other things in your packet. The first is an article written by Andy regarding how we as a church view the process of spiritual growth. The second is a CD sermon series called “Imagine” that does a good job of expanding and explaining in great depth everything we talked about this morning.
- ❖ We have staff members throughout the room and I would encourage you to ask them any and all questions you may have. They are here to specifically to help you. Thanks again for taking the time to come out. I hope this was a helpful time and we hope to see you again soon.