



JESUS | BRISTOL | NEXT-GEN

Three-Year Plan (2023 – 2025)

Vision Statement:

Hope Changes Everything

Mission Statement:

Love God. Love People. Serve Both.

Core Values:

Christ is Central

Scripture is Truth

Community is Vital

Spiritual Growth is Essential

The Next Generation is a Priority



WHAT IS ENGAGE?

ENGAGE is our Three-Year Strategic Plan beginning in 2023. Our leadership chose the word ENGAGE for various reasons. We want:

- Our church family to engage in their next step with Jesus
- To engage our community with the love of Christ
- To engage and disciple the next generation

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Since last spring, over fifty people across all generations have participated in the development of ENGAGE. We sought to answer important questions like:

- Where are we as a church?
- What's next for our church?
- How do we get there?

Following many meetings, conversations, and much prayer, we began to focus on three kingdom-worthy targets. Discipleship, reaching the lost, and children were at the heart of Jesus' ministry.

OBJECTIVES

ENGAGE **JESUS:**

1. Focused, fervent prayer
2. Create and launch a discipleship pathway with intentional communication through stories
3. Teach/preach to create a culture of disciples making disciples, becoming a mission-driven church
4. Develop, on-board leadership training
5. Develop a Groups strategy and relaunch Groups

METRIC: Every believer at Central disciples another believer while being disciplined.

ENGAGE **BRISTOL:**

1. Focused, fervent prayer
2. Identify Demographic Target
3. Complete a needs assessment of Bristol and develop Strategic Outreach Initiatives
4. Collect and tell stories
5. Teach evangelism training while teaching and preaching on outreach

METRIC: Every believer at Central engages an unchurched person and builds a friendship so that Jesus is shared within 3 years.

ENGAGE **NEXT GEN:**

1. Focused, fervent prayer
2. Review and improve facilities and technology
3. Connect with young families and students outside of CCC
4. Recruit, equip, and deploy a media team to collect and tell stories
5. Develop intentional, intergenerational ministry and increasing respect/esteem for one another

METRIC: Every believer at Central invests time, talent, and/or treasure in the next generation.



TARGET 1: DISCIPLESHIP

We want every believer at Central to experience discipleship.

This was at the heart of Jesus' ministry and commands, and we want it to be woven in the fabric of our church.

When we participate in discipleship, we engage Jesus as individuals and as a Christian community.

As a church, how do we know we are engaging Jesus in our discipleship?

The answer is two-fold—we are being disciplined as well as discipling someone else. Another way to think about this is by asking two questions:

1. Who are you being fed by? (*being disciplined*)
2. Who are you feeding? (*discipling someone*)

TOGETHER

Discipleship does not happen alone. Jesus placed an emphasis on relationships: with God and with others. That means we need to walk with each other in our spiritual journeys. This is why we will engage Jesus TOGETHER.

GROW

Healthy things GROW. Spiritual growth is essential in God's Kingdom. Jesus calls every believer to take their next step in experiencing a deep and full life in His footsteps. We seek to do this with one another in Groups.

MULTIPLY

Jesus sent His disciples to go and MULTIPLY. We believe every disciple has a deeper purpose in God's story. At Central, we desire to multiply disciples, leaders, and groups so that the Gospel expands exponentially.

INITIATIVES

- Pray fervently
- Modify and relaunch discipleship pathway—We will provide a clear path for people to become disciples.
- Equip Leaders and Members for Discipleship—We will strive to guide and resource our church family to fulfill God's calling to multiply.
- Evaluate and Relaunch Groups—We will develop group leaders, structures, and expectations in order to create and relaunch groups.
- Create a culture of storytelling—We will share life-changing stories that illustrate a life of discipleship and inspire others to follow Jesus and share their story.
- Unified Communication—We will create and use consistent terminology to simplify our communication and clarify our strategies.

ENGAGE JESUS

WHAT'S NEXT?

- **Pray Fervently**
- **Modify and Relaunch Discipleship Pathway**
 - We will provide clear steps for every person to take a next step in their discipleship journey.
 - Develop new processes and tools to equip church members for engaging others.
 - Examples: Informational handouts, response cards to serve, etc.
- **Equip Leaders and Members for Discipleship**
 - Disciple our leaders and teach them how to disciple others. Leaders should exemplify what it means to be discipled and to disciple.
 - Create initial short-term training to give leaders knowledge and tools equipping them to participate in discipling relationships.
 - Provide ongoing contexts for discipleship of leaders.
 - Establish periodic huddles to develop leaders and maintain community.
- **Evaluate and Relaunch Groups**
 - Develop Group Leaders
 - Develop training program for current and future leaders.
 - Train new leaders through active mentoring relationships and co-leading groups.
 - Develop Group Structures
 - Identify and define the purpose of each type of group.
 - Develop Group Expectations
 - Different types of groups will have varying functions and expectations.
 - Certain groups will grow smaller to grow more. People grow faster and deeper when they participate in a small community committed to discipling each other.
 - Plan to multiply—when these groups reach a consistent capacity of 12+ people, groups will multiply in order to create space for more discipleship.
 - These groups will incorporate and practice these four essential elements:
 - a. BIBLE—In each gathering, the group will engage God's word: devotional or study.
 - b. CARE—Love and care for each other in daily routines and emergencies.
 - c. PRAY—In each gathering, the group will pray with and for each other.
 - d. SERVE—Each group is expected to serve together.
- **Create a Culture of Storytelling**
 - Launch a churchwide campaign encouraging people to share stories that will be shared via video, social media, from stage, etc.
 - Equip the people of Central to put words to their story of God's life-changing work and become comfortable sharing their story with their group.
 - Develop a process for peoples' stories (with consent) to be known by staff and media team in order to record their stories and/or utilize them to inspire life-change in others.
- **Unified Communication**
 - Create and use consistent, simplified terms to improve communication.
 - For example: Different group names and purposes, Next Steps Process, etc.
 - Create a space (both physically and digitally) for people to find church resources including newsletter, bulletin, and ministry updates.
 - Keep resources updated and/or have directions on how to find specifics.



TARGET 2: COMMUNITY

We want our community to experience the hope of Jesus. Jesus calls us to share the love of Christ with those who need it most. We want to follow Jesus as servants for His Kingdom.

When we focus on reaching those around us, we engage Bristol by meeting needs in our community.

As a church, how do we know we are engaging Bristol?

We want each believer at Central to build a friendship with an unchurched person and share Jesus with them within a three-year period.

- Each one of us should have at least one person in our life we are trying to reach for Jesus.
- Those who aren't connected to a local church are more likely to be receptive to the gospel when it's shared by someone they know and respect.

LOVE

God showed his LOVE to each of us through Jesus. Jesus commands his followers to love one another just as He has loved us (John 15). We want to love Bristol with our hearts, minds, and hands.

SERVE

Jesus came to SERVE, not to be served. Disciples follow Jesus' example by pouring their lives out in service for others. We will serve by going into the community to meet needs while also hosting life-changing events.

SHARE

Each person has a story to SHARE. Jesus wants to use your story to make a difference in the life of someone around you. We want to equip every believer at Central to tell their story and share the impact God has made in their life.

INITIATIVES:

- Pray fervently
- Target families—We will shift our efforts towards reaching families for Jesus by building relationships with them.
- Implement Strategic Outreach Initiatives—We will *host* life-changing events for our community and *go* into the community to serve them where they are.
- Create a culture of storytelling—We will share life-changing stories that show the impact Jesus has made in the lives of people in our church family.
- Provide Evangelism Training—We will provide resources to help believers share their stories effectively and understand how to lead someone to Christ.
- Shift our focus to the lost—We will recognize the urgency to win our community for Jesus.

ENGAGE BRISTOL

WHAT'S NEXT?

- **Target Families**
 - In late 2022, we ordered a demographic study of our immediate footprint in the Bristol community. This detailed study provided valuable data in the following categories: diversity, income, education, age, family units, and spiritual background/interest.
 - We also received valuable data on some of the most common, pressing needs of those within five miles of our church building.
 - Following a review of this information, we identified our primary target as families in our community.
- **Implement Strategic Outreach Initiatives**
 - Host events that target specific needs of people in our community.
 - Financial Peace, Mental Health Seminars, Grief Counseling, etc.
 - Develop Men's Ministry opportunities to target young men and fathers.
 - Camping, Hiking, Sports, Life Skills, Father/Son events, etc.
 - Organize churchwide efforts to go and serve our community.
 - Partner with local organizations (incl. missions) to schedule HopeFull events in which the entire church is asked to participate in community service projects together.
 - Create better systems to follow-up with people who have had contact with our church.
 - VIVID, Clothing Pantry, HopeFull events, etc.
 - Build relationships with community leaders to help us determine what needs we can meet.
 - Local Principals, City Council, Fire/Police/EMS, etc.
- **Create a Culture of Storytelling**
 - Launch a churchwide campaign encouraging people to share stories that will be shared via video, social media, from stage, etc.
 - Help people see how their story can make a difference in the lives of others.
 - Provide ways for them to share their story.
- **Provide Evangelism Training**
 - Develop a training program that teaches believers how to effectively share the gospel.
 - Offer consistent reminders of training through classes, groups, sermons, etc.
- **Shift our Focus to the Lost**
 - Strengthen our efforts in seeing the lost and sharing the love of Jesus with them.
 - Become a church for the sick, not just the healthy.
 - We will become more hospitable to those who do not know Jesus yet and recognize the urgency of reaching our community.
 - We will host events, plan services, and create programs with unchurched people in mind.



TARGET 3: NEXT GENERATION

We want the next generation to experience a relationship with God. Jesus placed an emphasis on the faith of children. We desire to help the next generation fall in love with Jesus.

When we prioritize the Church's future, we engage the next generation with intentionality and care.

As a church, how do we know we are engaging the next generation?

We want every believer at Central to invest time, talent, and/or treasure in the next generation.

- No matter where you're at in your relationship with Christ, each believer can participate by spending time, sharing your gifts, and/or giving financially to support the next generation.

CONNECT

The first step to reach the next generation is to CONNECT. Studies show that younger generations are becoming less involved in the Church. Like Jesus, we need to know who they are and go where they are. We will empathize and build relationships with the next generation and their families.

INVEST

We will INVEST in the next generation. Jesus said to let the children come to Him, for the kingdom of heaven is for them (Mt 19). We will prioritize the next generation through relationships, our planning, and future upgrades to facilities and technology.

ENTRUST

We will ENTRUST the next generation as we disciple them. We desire to create a culture that develops the next generation through mentoring relationships and leadership opportunities.

INITIATIVES

- Pray fervently
- Connect with young families—We will pursue opportunities to reach families where they are.
- Evaluate strategy—We will create programs and classes aimed at the next generation.
- Create media team—We will recruit and build a team to highlight what's happening in our church by utilizing the gifts of the next generation.
- Create a culture of storytelling—We will share people's stories of what Central means to them and how they have benefitted from someone investing in them as the next generation.
- Develop intergenerational overlap—We will host intergenerational events for more overlap between generations and help people build mentoring relationships between church members.
- Update facilities—We will form a Facility Improvement Team to upgrade our church facilities.
- Update technology—We will form a Technology Improvement Team to leverage technology to be more effective as we perform ministry here and in the community.

ENGAGE NEXT GEN

WHAT'S NEXT?

- **Connect with Young Families**
 - Create dialogue with local schools to see how we can best partner with them.
 - Explore opportunities to use our building for student programs (Study Halls, Life Skills, etc.)
 - Work with local missions organizations to see how we can help meet needs for families.
 - Join local organizations to provide family friendly events for the community.
- **Evaluate Strategy**
 - Modify church programs to make sure we are creating a place for the next generation.
 - Provide opportunities for the next generation to use their voice in leadership.
 - Prioritize the next generation in future long-term planning such as budgeting, staffing, etc.
 - Review and update church policies regularly (i.e., Child Protection Policy).
- **Create Media Team**
 - Recruit a volunteer media team to provide content for use on social media.
 - Create a media bank of content for use in illustrating what's happening at Central.
 - Establish a media studio and purchase video equipment to assist in telling stories.
- **Create a Culture of Storytelling**
 - Launch a churchwide campaign encouraging people to share stories that will be shared via video, social media, from stage, etc.
 - Help the next generation recognize the value of their story here and now.
 - Utilize the gifts and skills of the next generation to help others share their stories.
- **Develop Intergenerational Overlap**
 - Create an intentional mentoring program where each person in the church has a mentoring relationship with someone in the next generation.
 - Host intentional, intergenerational events at least twice a year for increased overlap. (i.e., Annual Volunteer Recognition Banquet, Game Nights, Life Skills, Concerts, etc.)
 - Establish a Next Gen team to evaluate and assist in our efforts to reach the next generation.
- **Create a Facility Improvement Team**
 - Form a team of diverse and skilled individuals to investigate improvements in the following areas:
 - Sanctuary (Seating, Lighting, Audio, Blinds, Stained Glass/Windows, Stage Set-Up, Sound System/Livestream, etc.)
 - Relational Space (Larger Lobby/Entryway, Nursing/Cry Room, Family Restrooms, Outdoor Meeting Spaces, Gathering Spaces for Coffee and Breakfast)
 - Updated Signage (Check-In, Sanctuary, Main Entrance, Safety/Security)
- **Create a Technology Improvement Team**
 - Form a team of diverse and skilled individuals to investigate improvements in the following areas:
 - Software (Church Management, Photoshop/Adobe, Church App, Rightnow Media/Curriculum, etc)
 - Hardware (TV's, tablets, computers, sound system, audio/visual upgrades, Livestream, cameras)
 - Plan intentional training for use of new software and hardware.