

NEXT

The Road Ahead



DEVO

Championing Mission, Culture, and
Values



ONECHURCH

Scripture Focus

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20 (ESV)

The Road

As we prepare our hearts for this year’s Inspire Leadership Conference “The Road Ahead,” I want to invite you to picture a road: long, sometimes uncertain, occasionally steep, but most often beautiful because it’s taking you somewhere that matters. For leaders in the church, that road is not merely a path we walk as individuals; it’s the route we chart together as a people called to be God’s presence in our city. The quality of the journey depends on one thing above all: whether we are committed to championing the mission, cultivating the culture, and embodying the values that Jesus has given us.

Matthew 28 reminds us that our marching orders come from the risen King. The mission is not a program we invent — it is the call to make disciples, to love and teach and baptize in Jesus’ name. This mission shapes every decision a leader makes: how we spend time, money, talent, and attention. When the mission is clear, direction follows.

A Story for the Road Ahead

There was a leader named Jake who loved her church and carried heavy responsibility for its direction. One year, the church grew rapidly. They faced new volunteers, more programs, and an increasing number of decisions. Jake found himself making choices that increased attendance but slowly eroded the warm, discipling culture he cherished.

Numbers rose, but something vital was leaking away.

One quiet night, Jake walked the empty building and sat in the dark sanctuary. He remembered a simple question a mentor had once asked him: “If everything about our church disappeared tomorrow except one thing, what would you want to remain?” Jake realized he wanted the people. He wanted the discipling, the humility, the gospel-shaped relationships to remain. That morning he began to lean into three disciplines: clarifying mission at every meeting, naming and rewarding the values he wanted to see, and telling stories, often, of how culture looks when it’s healthy.

Slowly, the church’s trajectory changed. They still reached new people, but now growth was shaped by discipleship. The road ahead became less about short-term wins and more about faithful steps. The staff discovered that when leaders chose the mission over convenience, and modeled values over popularity, the congregation followed. That choice rippled out and changed what the church looked like on the other side of growth.

Connecting the Overflow to Our Leadership Topics

Championing the Mission: Leaders must keep the Great Commission front and center in conversations, decisions, and priorities. Mission clarifies “why” before “how.”

Cultivating the Culture: Culture is formed by repeated actions and stories. Leaders must be intentional storytellers celebrating examples that model our values.

Living the Values: Values guide hard choices. When decisions are tested, ask which option most aligns with our stated values and lead courageously even when it costs you something.

Multipling Leadership: Invest in developing and releasing others when leaders intentionally raise and empower new leaders, the mission multiplies, the culture deepens, and our values replicate beyond any one person.

Questions for Reflection

Take a few moments to consider the following questions, letting them guide your heart and mind as you prepare for the conference:

Mission: What decision this season most needs the filter of our mission before we act?

Culture: Which habit or story in our church is shaping culture, for better or for worse, and how might you as a leader influence it?

Values: When have you recently chosen convenience over value? What would it look like to choose differently next time?

The Road Ahead: What one practical step can you take this week to champion mission, model culture, or reinforce a core value?

A Prayer for the Journey

Heavenly Father,

thank You for placing us on a road that matters. Give us clarity of mission, patience to cultivate a healthy culture, and courage to live by the values You have given us. Help us lead not for accolades or comfort, but for the sake of the gospel and the flourishing of Your people. Keep our eyes on Jesus, who guides every step, and unify us as we press forward together.

In His name, Amen.