



the resilient pastor

Discussion Guide

by **Glenn Packiam**

Chapter 1

The Shift, the Surge, and the Aftermath

1. Where do you observe the shift between Christianity and culture in the world around you?

2. How have you seen the surge of a new kind of *pluralism* in your community and even in your church?

3. How have you seen the surge of a new kind of *paganism* in your community and even in your church?

4. How have you seen the surge of an expressive *individualism* in your community and even in your church?

5. How have these or other shifts made ministry life more challenging?

Chapter 2

The Challenge of Vocation

1. Do you remember how you discerned a calling into pastoral ministry? If so, would you mind sharing it?

2. How do you feel about the way you spend your time in a given week?

3. How do you feel about your calling as a pastor today? In what ways do you struggle with doubt or a sense of fulfillment?

4. What are the central practices that shape a pastoral calling?

5. How can you renew your calling?

Chapter 3

The Challenge of Spirituality

1. How easy or difficult is it for you to find time or make time to cultivate your own life with God?

2. What spiritual practices have you found most helpful in enriching your life with God?

3. What do you think about the idea of “digging new wells”?

Chapter 4

The Challenge of Relationships

1. How often do you feel lonely or isolated in your vocation?
Has it been more often than normal during the pandemic?

2. Do you have any relationships outside the church? If so, what kinds of relationships?

3. How often do you make time for friendships that are symmetrical (i.e., no power differential), mutual, and reciprocal?

4. What are your thoughts about the Lord of the Rings model of relationships (sage, king, peer, friend, and healer)? Which relationships are you missing in your life?

5. If you're married, how have you been able to carve out devoted time for your spouse and children (if any)?

Chapter 5

The Challenge of Credibility

1. Have you felt the loss of credibility among your own congregation?
If so, how?

2. Have you felt the loss of credibility in your own community or city?
If so, how?

3. Has your influence shifted since 2020? If so, how?

4. On what topics are you most likely to be considered a trustworthy source of wisdom?

Chapter 6

The Challenge of Worship

1. What do you think the primary purpose of our gathering should be as a church: mission (reaching the lost), formation (discipleship or becoming more like Jesus), or encounter (experiencing the presence of God)?

2. What place does online worship have in the church? Can it replace the physical gathering?

3. How effective has online worship been for you? What are the limitations you are discovering?

Chapter 7

The Challenge of Formation

1. In your estimation, what is the goal of discipleship?

2. What are some of the most effective means of discipleship in your church?

3. What are some of the ways your church measures discipleship success?

Chapter 8

The Challenge of Unity

1. What are some of the challenges to unity that you have witnessed or experienced in your church?

2. What are some of the challenges to unity that you have witnessed or experienced in your city or community?

3. How do you think conversations about racism and racial justice go among people in your church?

4. How have you observed the influence of “Christian” nationalism in your church?

Chapter 9

The Challenge of Mission

1. What would you say are the missional priorities of your church?
What are some ways you are determining that (e.g., money spent, time spent doing or talking about it, sermon mentions, etc.)?

2. What do you think about the differences in how mainline and non-mainline Protestants rank their missional priorities?

3. Why do you think there has long been a split in the American church between “evangelism” and “justice and care”?

4. How could you help people in your church develop and adhere to a broader kingdom vision for the church’s mission?

Chapter 10

The Collaborative Church

1. Where do you see signs of *symbiotic influence* in your church? What denominational lines or traditions are blurring together or does your church borrow from?

2. What are some of the *missional partnerships* your church has in the city or community? How much do people in your church know about these partnerships, and how well do they understand the way these work and how they can get involved?

3. How would you describe the culture of collaboration on your church staff? What things could help move your teams toward greater health?

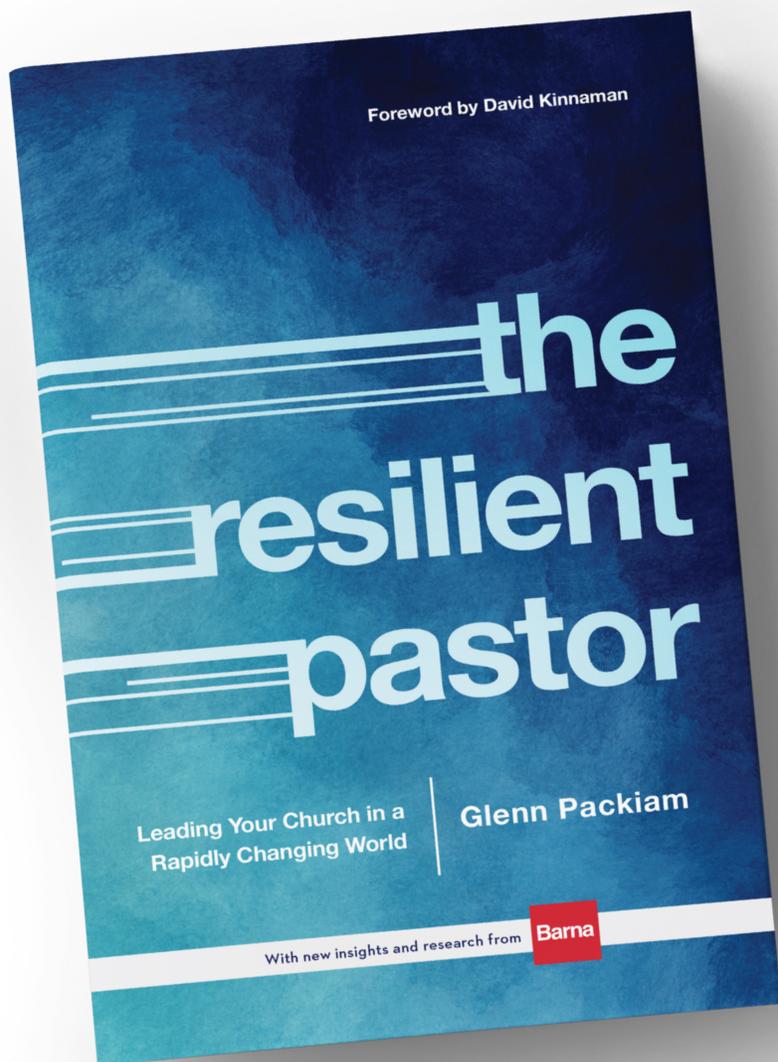
Chapter 11

The Presence and the Power

1. Share a story about God reaching someone, saving someone, or meeting someone (or something else) that would be a sign of God at work in your church.

2. How can your church welcome the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in more intentional ways?

3. How can you help people in your church to be more intentional about welcoming the presence and power of the Holy Spirit in their lives outside the church?



**Get 30%* off and free shipping at
BakerBookHouse.com**

*40% off when you buy 20+ copies

Visit Glennpackiam.com to learn more