

How to Start a Church Podcast: A Beginner's Guide

By EFCA Communications

Expert: John-Mark Dorough

There's never been a better time for your church to start a podcast. With low-cost equipment, recording software and publishing options, your church can start a podcast in a weekend and pave a new pathway for discipleship and extending the gospel in your community. Here's a quick guide to help you launch your church podcast today.

The Setup

Step 1: Determine your podcast format.

Will you produce a solo podcast where you read Scripture and offer insight, or will you launch a talk show format with multiple speakers and guests? What you choose will determine your content and the equipment you need.

Step 2: Develop your content.

Consider taking a couple hours to develop your podcast's content. This could include how you want to open and close the podcast, an outline for each episode, and/or a written script. You will also want to determine your publication schedule and how many podcasts you want to record each month.

Step 3: Purchase recording equipment.

For solo podcasts, John-Mark recommends purchasing a [Shure MV7 USB microphone](#) (\$249 on Amazon) and an applicable stand. With this microphone, you can bypass needing a mixer, plugging the microphone into your computer while using free recording software like [Audacity](#) or [GarageBand](#).

For group podcasts, you'll need extra equipment. John-Mark recommends the [RODEcaster Pro](#) to mix your audio (\$499 on Amazon). You will need additional microphones with XLR inputs. When they started their podcast, John-Mark found microphones they were already using for services. Later, they upgraded to dedicated mics. He recommends the [Shure SM58](#) for an inexpensive but quality mic.

Step 4: Download recording software.

If you're a podcaster on a budget, consider downloading Audacity (free) or using GarageBand (free on Macbooks and other Apple products). Keep in mind, this software won't have advanced features. If you have it in your budget, John-Mark recommends purchasing [Logic Pro](#) (Apple only).

Step 5: Record!

At this point, you're ready to record the first episode of your podcast. Before you dive in, read through the following tips for an even better recording experience.

Tips on recording

1. Record in a small space.

Don't record in your sanctuary. Instead, find a small room (e.g., office, library, prayer room, etc.) to record. If you can, John-Mark recommends putting up baffling (sound proofing) to improve the sound quality.

2. Make minor adjustments to the volume.

The volume setting on the mixer (like the RODEcaster) is key to balancing out each channel. Before recording, you'll want to ensure that the volume isn't [peaking](#). And then, during the recording, you may need to make minor adjustments as necessary.

3. Test, Test, Test.

Experiment with recording before diving into the official first episode. Test what you like and don't like about the sound of the recording. Try to iron out problems before doing an official recording. Once you have this down, the recording process speeds up.

4. Re-record when necessary.

If someone makes a mistake, trips on their words or can't think of what to say, ask them if they want to stop the recording and try again. Fixing mistakes in the recording process will help you later when you edit.

Tips on editing

1. Cut out filler and awkward pauses.

Listen for filler words (e.g., "um," "uh," and "like") and awkward pauses, and cut them out in the edit. This can be time-consuming, but it will increase the quality of your podcast.

2. Balance the volume.

For beginners, John-Mark recommends ignoring advanced features at first and instead focusing on just balancing the volume on each channel. Once you feel more comfortable with the process, you can go deeper and research more advanced audio editing.

[Read how Shades Valley Community Church launched a podcast.](#)

Expert Bio:

*John-Mark Dorough is the worship and communication pastor at [Shades Valley Community Church](#) (EFCA) in Homewood, Alabama. He is a songwriter, instrumentalist and producer of [Shades Midweek](#). He also plays drums for worship artist Daniel Bashta and his own instrumental band, *The Sleep Design*. He has been married to his wife Ashley for 14 years, and they have two awesome children, Moses and Zion.*