

My time at Emmanuel was great to prepare me for ministry in New York City. I had been a pastor at a church in the Midwest and learned quickly that a lot of what I learned there about being a pastor would not apply in a Manhattan context. People were used to treating the pastor with a certain amount of authority, but that was not true for people in New York City. In fact, usually when people heard I was a pastor, they either gave me a puzzled look or they made some excuse to walk on the other side of the street from me. So I learned quickly to be vague about what I did for a living.

When I interned at Emmanuel, I received a really helpful comment about my style as a pastor. Everyone said that while they generally like me, they thought I was too "folksy." To be honest, I wasn't quite sure what that meant. When I talked about it with Charlie and Scott, they gave me some suggestions of things I could do differently when presenting in front of people or when leading a group at church, but none of us knew exactly what that "folksy" comment meant. It took me almost the whole year to figure out what people meant by that. Basically, people were telling me that I was too midwestern, that I needed to learn to carry myself more like a New Yorker. As abstract as that sounds, I actually came to understand what they meant the more I interacted with people at Emmanuel and in New York City. Without going through that adjustment from folksy-Midwesterner to passable-as-a-New Yorker, I would have had a much more difficult time getting the core group together to start City Grace Church.

My time at Emmanuel, particularly the mentorship I received from Charlie and Scott, was critical to my development as a church planter in New York City. I am so thankful for the opportunity I had to do that internship with Emmanuel!

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