

## = It Takes a Church =

It Takes a Church is an American dating game show hosted by Natalie Grant and broadcast by Game Show Network . The show travels to multiple churches across the country looking for single members of congregations looking for a partner . The congregation of the church is primarily in charge of looking at potential daters and judging which one would be the best match . The first season , sponsored by Christian Mingle , began airing on June 5 , 2014 . The series was later renewed for a second season , which began airing March 26 , 2015 .

The series received mixed reviews ; one critic gave the series an " Amen ! " while another argued the viewers should " pass " on watching it . Ratings for the first season provided 6 million total viewers for the eight episodes , while the second season saw a decline in the ratings .

## = = Gameplay = =

The series travels to various churches and congregations to have a single , unsuspecting member of the church presented with potential suitors . Each episode begins at the setting of a church service , with host Natalie Grant appearing to introduce the show . A single member of the congregation is introduced to his or her surprise , while members of the congregation then nominate other single members of the congregation as suitors . The number of suitors is immediately narrowed down to four ; they are the top three as voted by the congregation and a fourth chosen by the pastor or minister .

In the first round , the single member spends time in the community ( usually at a charitable event ) with two suitors at a time . During this time , a group of matchmakers watches the events as they are recorded on camera . Once all four suitors have interacted with the single member , the matchmakers provide their input before the single member eliminates a suitor of his or her choice . The church 's pastor moderates the second round , setting up the suitors on their own dates with the single member before spending time one @-@ on @-@ one with each of the suitors . The pastor then makes recommendations to the single member , who in turn eliminates another suitor . The final round consists of actual one @-@ on @-@ one dates between the single member and each of the suitors . After the dates , the congregation gathers to see who the single member has deemed the " winner , " while the matchmaker who originally suggested the winner at the start of the episode earns the church a \$ 10 @,@ 000 donation in his or her name . Additionally , the suitors who are not selected receive a free , one @-@ year membership to the online dating website Christian Mingle .

## = = Production = =

GSN first announced the show in their upfront presentation on April 9 , 2013 . The network then ordered eight episodes on December 17 , the first of which premiered on June 5 , 2014 . During the first season , the series was sponsored by Christian Mingle . On August 21 , 2014 , the series was renewed for a second season , which premiered March 26 , 2015 .

## = = Reception = =

It Takes a Church has received mixed reviews from critics . Tom Conroy of Media Life Magazine enjoyed the premiere episode , arguing that it may even attract a secular audience : " Even secular viewers will be curious to see which one Angela picks , and they ? ll get a glimpse into a subculture that is largely invisible on TV . Members of that subculture , on the other hand , will watch It Takes a Church and say , ' Amen ! ' " . Contrastly , Neil Genzlinger of The New York Times called the series " utterly frivolous , " and called into question the " state of America 's spiritual health " after watching an episode . Genzlinger also argued that the show was a not much more than a " desperate " effort to find something the conservative Christian audience will watch . Carrie Grosvenor of About Entertainment added that viewers should " pass " on the series , calling GSN 's The American Bible Challenge a better " solid game format . "

### === Ratings ===

The series garnered over six million total viewers for its first season , posting significant gains in multiple demographics ( including women ages 18 ? 49 and 25 ? 54 ) versus the time period the previous year . Ratings during the second season dropped significantly ; the April 23 , 2015 airing earned only 207 @ , @ 000 viewers and a 0 @ . @ 03 rating among adults 18 ? 49 .