



Dr. John L. Rothra’s mission is to help people and churches **know, show, and share** the gospel of Jesus. These three tenets define his ministry online and in the pulpit.

Dr. Rothra holds a PhD in Evangelism and is the author of *1X Evangelism: A Kingdom Growth Strategy for the Local Church*. He is also a huge Buffalo Bills fan. He and his wife, Olivia, have three children, one of whom is special needs.

Born in Texas in 1974, Dr. Rothra is both a “military brat” and a “preacher’s kid”: his father is a retired US Air Force veteran and a pastor. As such, he was raised in various states (including Arkansas, Illinois, Virginia, Alabama, and Texas), and lived for five years in Germany.

Dr. Rothra gave his life to Christ in 1984 while living in Illinois. In 1993, during his first year of college, the idea of being in ministry first entered his mind, though he had other plans. Finally, at the age of 28, God called Dr. Rothra to enter ministry, and he surrendered to that call. He was then licensed in 2002 and ordained in 2004 as a Southern Baptist minister at Judson Community Baptist Church in Longview, Texas. He entered seminary at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, in 2004, earning an MDivBL in Evangelism and Missions in 2007 and then his PhD in 2014.

Dr. Rothra began preaching in 2002 and accepted his first pastorate in 2004. He continued pastoring for ten years, serving three churches—two in Texas and one in Florida. In 2014, Dr. Rothra’s ministry transitioned from the pastorate to other areas, including serving in worship ministry, church marketing, and developing an online ministry consisting of his website, JohnRothra.com, and his YouTube channel.

In 2015, Dr. Rothra published his book, *1X Evangelism*, and was the featured speaker at the 2016 “Ignite Houston” evangelism conference. It was also during this time that John and Olivia first learned that their son was special needs: autism, ADHD, and cerebral palsy. As such, special needs ministry holds special place their hearts.

Because of his experience in churches of various sizes—ranging from small rural churches to large and megachurches—along with serving in different types of ministries, Dr. Rothra has a unique appreciation for how individual ministries within a church interact and contribute to their church’s overall ministry. Today, Dr. Rothra’s passion is to use all God has given him to help people and churches know, show, and share the gospel of Jesus.