

Church Consultation

Small

Church

Initiative



PARTICIPANT WORKBOOK

Core Purpose

To understand how our world around us has changed and what we need to do in order to stay relevant.

Objectives

- Introduce leaders to some key principles of outward-focused small churches.
 - Engage leaders in the “transformation” of the church toward fulfillment of God’s mission to “make new disciples.”
 - Compare the EPIC differences between Modern and Post-Modern people.
 - Learn some tangible things we can all do to reach out to new people.
 - Review ways to survive change in our church.
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Ground Rules

1. Please turn off or silence your cell phones.
2. Ask questions if you do not understand something.
3. Be engaged by participating openly and honestly.
4. Be respectful of other opinions and open to new ideas and concepts.
5. Understand that the session goes quickly so the facilitator may need to move things along in order to stay on track.

“Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself and not under the law), so as to win those under the law. To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God’s law but am under Christ’s law), so as to win those not having the law. To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.”

1 Corinthians 9:19-22 (NIV, © 2010)

Outward-Focused

It all begins with the _____.

. . . but it can never be ONLY the pastor!

Hard Facts:

- 90% of all American churches are stagnate and declining.
- Only 10% of all churches are growing.
 - 19 out of 20 churches who are growing are only doing it through transfers.
- Less than 1% of all churches in America are growing substantially from conversion growth.

The Methodist Movement

- By the mid to late 1800's, we represented _____% of the American population.
- By the mid 1900's, we were the largest membership denomination in America, yet our total representation of the American population fell to 10-12%.
- By the late 1900's, our attendance, baptisms, membership had declined dramatically. Baptisms total representation of the American population had fallen to less than 5%. New church plants fell to an all time low in 1978 to twelve nation wide.
- By the early 2000's, our population base has aged dramatically. The number of congregations closing has risen dramatically. The number of larger congregations went down by 1/3 while other denominational large churches rose by 50%.
- By the early 2000's, there was a full emergence of the _____ community church attracting the non-churched in almost every community in America.

We have moved from an attraction model to a networking model. It is no longer enough to just put up a sign and wait for people to come to us. We must reach out to them.

The Change is EPIC!



The Change is EPIC!

Modern		Post-Modern
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Linear thinking• Reflection• Intellectual• Rational	E	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Emotions• Feel it• Share experience• Moves us

Experiential



The Change is EPIC!

Modern		Post-Modern
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Choir• Listening• Solo• Picture	P	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Involved• Sing• Play• Take home

Participatory



The Change is EPIC!

Modern		Post-Modern
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Listen• Watch• Show me• Bulletin - print	I	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Image Rich• Music driven• Involve me• Video

Interactive



The Change is EPIC!

Modern		Post-Modern
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fellowship – in hall afterwards• Face-to-face• Happens in committees	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Begins before arrival• Continual Fellowship• Electronic driven• Happens in Missions

Communal

We must look back in order to move forward

Insights from the apostle Paul:

1. We have got to be _____ in the Gospel of the crucified Christ.
2. The church is the body of Christ. "It's _____ about us."
3. Take _____ in God's presence and our call.
4. Gifts of ministry for all people.
5. Make _____ your aim. "It's all about the experience."
6. Our main business is _____ new people for Christ.

The Good News . . .

Every church can come alive!

No matter their size!



NOTES

"God doesn't call people who are qualified. He calls people who are willing, and then qualifies them."

Richard Parker

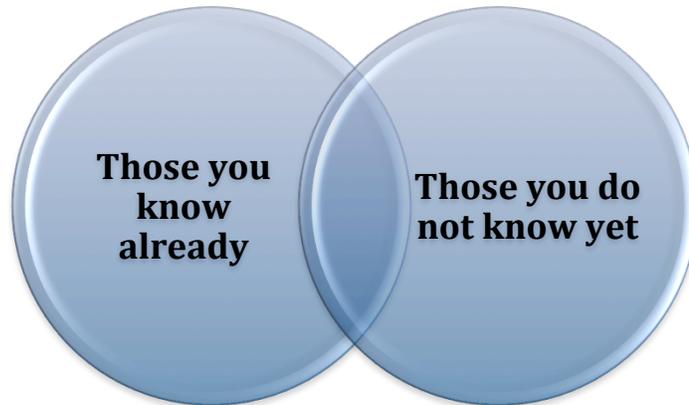
"People of humility don't think less of themselves, they just think about themselves less."

Ken Blanchard and
Norman Vincent Peale

"Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstance, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Every church has two mission fields



15 Practical Ideas for Evangelism:

1. Move the fellowship hall to the front door – upgrade your hospitality.
2. Re-do your signage and upgrade the outside. Worship times are VERY important!
3. Join a few organizations in town—network with businesses.
4. Hold 2-3 big events a year for the community. (NOT fundraisers) Invite, invite, invite
5. Prayer walk local neighborhoods. Not to invite, not to bring attention to yourself, but to pray for those all around you.
6. Liven up and pick up the whole worship experience.
7. Do some direct mail for a zip code or two.
8. Go to a sermon series – do an external mailing to let people know.
9. Call the newspaper with information. (Don't advertise in the "church" section.)
10. Clearly link your local mission work with evangelism.

15 Practical Ideas for Evangelism:

11. Preach & Teach invitational living

–Remember, 80% come by invitation

–Another 10% by drive by

–Another 5% from internet

12. Web page – clean and easy to navigate

–90% of first-time guest have been to your website

–Worship times / style / location / dress / what to expect are the most important

13. Upgrade your nursery – as close as possible to worship area

–“hospital” clean

–VERY secure (check in and out system)

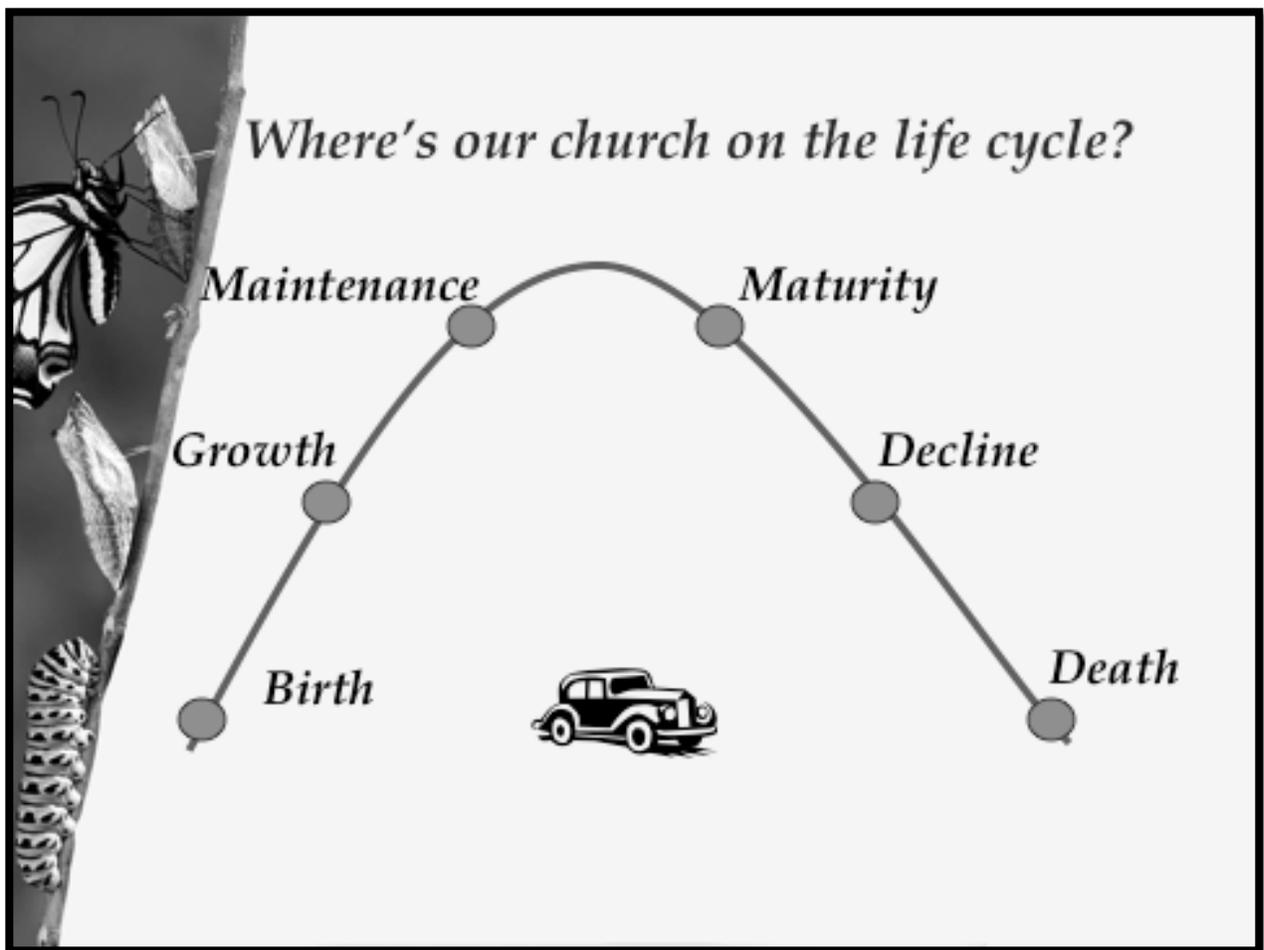
–No older kids

14. Risk turning off some folks to reach more

15. Decide what 2-3 things you can do best...and stick with them.

10 Tips for Surviving Change:

1. If you believe it with all your heart, fight for it with all your might, you might be right.
2. The best things are not things, they're people and relationships!
3. Your duty is to keep your mouth open. "Only dead fish go with the stream all the time."
4. Set the table for unexpected guests.
5. Every change gets tougher without some success.
6. Be able to laugh at yourself, interests, and authenticity.
7. If you're going to lead, you're going to bleed.
8. Remember, this is not a popularity contest.
9. Lead, don't push—get out on a limb, but make sure it is on the tree.
10. Preach change, change happens when you preach.





Small Church Initiative

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