

Building a Church
for the
Unchurched:
Sociological Influences

**Participant's
Booklet**

**Evangelism Resources
USA/Canada Mission/Evangelism Department
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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BUILDING A CHURCH FOR THE UNCHURCHED: SOCIOLOGICAL INFLUENCES

PURPOSE: Develop a better understanding of the sociological influences on church growth.

- OBJECTIVES:**
- Examine why people don't attend church
 - Look at ways to reach the unchurched
 - Explore incorporation versus assimilation
 - Applying sociological principles

BUILDING A CHURCH FOR THE UNCHURCHED: SOCIOLOGICAL INFLUENCES

Introduction

- A survey done in 1988 by Gallup says that the major complaint of unchurched people is that the church is too preoccupied with _____ and _____.

I. UNCHURCHED AMERICANS

1. 75-80% of all churches in the U.S. are not _____.
2. _____ of all Americans have no church affiliation.

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3. Of those who have no church affiliation, the following statistics apply:
- a. _____ pray
 - b. _____ believe in life after death
 - c. _____ believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God
 - d. _____ have made a commitment to Christ in the past
 - e. _____ are open to returning to the church

II. Reaching the unchurched

1. Gallup identifies reasons why people would come back to church:
- a. _____ said they would probably become active in the church again
 - b. _____ said that they would become active if there were a pastor or friend with whom they could _____ their religious beliefs.
 - c. _____ to discuss spiritual
- _____

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- d. _____ to a church _____
with bettering society
- e. _____ to a church with good

- f. _____ to a church where they were
_____ by a member, and if
they liked the people
- g. _____ to a church with a good religious
_____ program for youth
- h. _____ as a result of a
_____ in my family
situation like marriage, separation, or the birth
of a child

2. What are church _____

looking for?

a. A warm and friendly

b. A place where children will
_____ welcomed, and want

to return

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- c. Parents are seeking new

- d. Church shoppers usually choose a
_____ church
- e. Church shoppers are apt to ask: “Where will I
be needed most, and where can I
_____ God effectively?”
- f. They want a church that is
_____ and accustomed to
celebrating
- g. A church that will meet the religious and
spiritual _____ they feel
- h. They _____ with the
pastor
- i. Someone from the church made
_____ with them
_____ after their first visit
at that church
- j. Church shoppers were caught up with the high
level of _____ and variety
of activities

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III. Incorporation vs Assimilation

1. Incorporation

Is the process of helping newcomers feel socially
_____ with the church

2. Assimilation

Is the process of helping newcomers feel they are

3. Application

Plan events that encourage a
_____ experience

IV. Applying Sociological Principles

1. People have a great capacity to influence

_____ in others

2. People possess varying sociological _____

a. People need to _____ (worship)

b. They need to _____ with a
larger group (congregation)

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- c. Some need to _____ in a small group
 - d. Others need _____ (the cell group) in order to adequately handle life
3. The church must attempt to minister to a multitude of _____ human needs
 4. People move in and out of _____ to God and the church
 5. We must minister to people where they _____, not from the place we wish they were
 6. New Christians have more _____ with the world than those who have been Christians for some time
 7. People with _____ life styles, values, racial and economic backgrounds tend to group together because they are most comfortable with like-minded people
 8. People wish to serve the Lord _____, not in _____

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SMALL GROUP EXERCISE

In your church teams, discuss the following:

1. What do church shoppers discover when they visit your congregation?
2. What are the needs to which your church is trying to respond?
3. How do we know if a person is assimilated into the life of the church?

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ACTION PLANNING/REPORTING FORM

Homework: Based on the information presented, and ideas generated from this training session, develop a project (or plan) for helping people get 'connected' with your church.

Steps to Implement Project/Plan	Who will do this step?	When will it be done?	What were the results?	What might you do differently next time?
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				

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