

Introduction:

- **The characteristics of a High Impact Church**

1. Lost people are coming to Christ.
2. Found people are growing to maturity.
3. Your church is meeting significant needs in your community.

- **The goal**

To encourage and empower pastors to grow a High Impact Church.

- **Dispelling the myths of church growth**

Myth #1: You have to have a certain kind of personality.

Myth #2: You have to have a certain style of music.

Myth #3: You have to follow certain models.

Myth #4: You must make your church like those mentioned above.

- **Empirical research and key resources**

Natural Church Development by Christian Schwarz

The High Impact Church by Linus Morris

**Growing churches know the purpose of the Church
and the purpose of their church within their sphere of influence.**

1. The Objective:

To explain that the purpose of the Church is to have a great commitment to the Great Commission and the great commandment. In essence, the Church has been left on earth to make disciples of Jesus Christ and, as a result, to bring glory to God.

2. The Research:

The number one correlation between churches that grow and churches that do not grow is the willingness of the church to go outside of itself to get help. The second strongest correlation between churches that grow and churches that do not is pastors and leaders who are willing to go outside of their church and ask for help.

3. The Major Teaching Points:

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV)

Making disciples involves:

- **EVANGELISM** - lost people come to Christ.
- **DISCIPLESHIP** - found people grow to maturity.
- **LEADERSHIP** **DEVELOPMENT** - mature people reproduce their lives.

God has a specific plan for each local assembly rooted in their culture, time in history, spiritual gifts resident in the body, and needs of their community. These are the basis of a local church's vision. Each local church must determine, before God, their specific purpose for existence in their community.

4. The Practical Implementation:

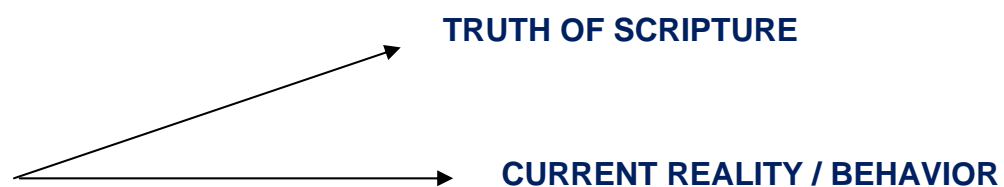
- **SPECIFIC** means to accomplish discipleship: The Purpose-Driven model

The five purposes for every believer:

1. **MEMBERSHIP**
2. **MATURITY**
3. **MINISTRY**
4. **MISSION**
5. **MAGNIFY**

- Start developing a plan to fulfill your purpose – a specific strategy to move your people through each stage of discipleship.
- We need to teach our way toward the vision. Then the changes are seen as a solution to a problem, not a change being imposed on them.

Transition from the heart.



- The **POWER** of vision.
 - How to develop a vision statement:

Articulate God's will from Scripture and then picture for them what God could do through ordinary people.

- Key components of a good vision statement:
 1. **DYNAMIC**
 2. **SIMPLE**
 3. **CLEAR**
 4. **COMPELLING**
 5. **MEASURABLE**

Key Questions:

1. How has your understanding of a High Impact Church changed as a result of this session?
2. Do you see a need for developing a plan for people to become members of the body of Christ? ... to mature? ... to minister? ... to use their life mission in the market place and ultimately to glorify God? How do you think such a plan will benefit you and the church?
3. What is the unique calling of your local church? Why do you exist?
4. What things came to your mind during this session as God spoke to you?
5. How focused are you on achieving your church's purpose; how is your church doing at scoring spiritual goals?
6. Are you producing people who are following Christ?

Resources at our website: LivingontheEdge.org

The High Impact Church – chapters 9 & 12

The Miracle of Life Change, sessions 5-6, audio or DVD small group material



1. The Objective:

To help pastors to see that they are the key to church growth, and that there is an attitude and worldview of expectation that must be taught by them and caught by their church for it to grow.

2. The Introduction:

- List the top two or three **BARRIERS** to growth in your church.
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
- Research shows that the primary factor in church growth is the **ROLE** of the pastor.
- There are many things pastors do not have control of but pastors do have 100% control of their **ATTITUDE / FAITH** and what they expect God to do in the church.

Every church has barriers.

**Growing churches believe that growth is normal, predictable, supernatural, and imperative for them as a congregation.
The “status quo” is not an option.**

- Pastors of growing churches:
 - Have a commitment to **GROW.**
 - Have a visionary faith and **PRAYER LIFE**.
 - Provide effective pastoral **LEADERSHIP.**

3. The Major Teaching Points:

A commitment to grow

- Growth is **NORMAL.** (see Acts 2,3,4,6,8,10,13)

²⁶ He also said, “This is what the kingdom of God is like. A man scatters seed on the ground. ²⁷ Night and day, whether he sleeps or gets up, the seed sprouts and grows, though he does not know how. ²⁸ All by itself the soil produces grain—first the stalk, then the head, then the full kernel in the head. ²⁹ As soon as the grain is ripe, he puts the sickle to it, because the harvest has come.”

³⁰ Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? ³¹ It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest seed you plant in the ground. ³² Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds of the air can perch in its shade.”

³³ With many similar parables Jesus spoke the word to them, as much as they could understand. ³⁴ He did not say anything to them without using a parable. But when He was alone with His own disciples, He explained everything.

Mark 4: 26-34 (NIV)

- Growth is **IMPERATIVE.** (see Matthew 28; Luke 15)
- Growth is **SUPERNATURAL.** (see 1 Corinthians 3)

- Growth **BARRIERS** **ARE** **PREDICTABLE**.
 1. Spiritual
 2. Sociological
 3. Structural
 4. Emotional / Perceptual
- Growth is **COSTLY**.
 1. Integrity issues – Tests of character
 2. Cultural issues – “We’ve always done it that way.”
 3. Traditions vs. Biblical commands
 4. People’s expectations vs. Biblical models
 5. Politics – Unqualified leaders

4. The Research:

Churches that have a clearly stated vision, and make it the basis for their planning and evaluation, are churches that are much more likely to grow than those that do not.

5. The Practical Implementation:

A visionary faith and prayer life

- Why is vision important?
 1. It’s the north star of the church.
 2. It’s the basis and criteria for **DECISION** **MAKING**.
 3. It provides a means to **MEASURE** progress and evaluation.

4. It **INSPIRES** _____ greatness.
 5. It attracts pillar people.
 6. It is the key to unity; it keeps the focus off problem and “pet” issues.
- How to develop vision in the church to set expectations:
 1. Get to know **GOD** _____.
 2. Get to know **YOURSELF** _____.
 3. Get to know other **VISIONARY** _____ **LEADERS**.
 4. Get to know **YOUR** _____ **PEOPLE** _____.
 - How to articulate the vision in the church:
 1. State it big, and simply, and often.
 2. State it compellingly.
 3. Tell stories.
 4. Use printed material.
 5. Utilize preaching.

Key Question:

1. How are you doing in regard to your attitude, expectations, faith, and walk with God?

Resources at our website: LivingontheEdge.org

Unstoppable by Chip Ingram, Audio series, LivingontheEdge.org
The High Impact Church – chapters 9

1. The Objective:

To teach the Ephesians 4 design of church structure to pastors and to help all of us, as fellow pastors, understand God's architectural design to build His Church.

Growing churches empower leaders to equip the saints and expect every member to function as a minister.

2. The Major Teaching Points:

¹¹ It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, ¹² to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up ¹³ until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

¹⁴ Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. ¹⁵ Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into Him who is the Head, that is, Christ. ¹⁶ From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.

Ephesians 4:11-16 (NIV)

God's design for the Church:

- Leaders are equippers. (see Ephesians 4:11-16)
- Members are ministers. (see 1 Peter 2:4)
- No one ministers alone. (see Romans 12)

³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you.

⁴ Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.

⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. ⁷ If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; ⁸ if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Romans 12:3-13 (NIV)

- Ministries have to be:

1. Team-structured (see Romans 12:3-5)

Birthing a ministry team:

- Ask if God has laid this matter on their heart.
- They should pray for the next 7 days asking God to bring a team of 3 or 4 people around them who have the same burden.
- The team should pray and dream what the ministry might look like.
- They should write a one-page summary of the goal of the ministry, how they would go about doing the ministry, and what support they need from the church to empower and encourage their team, although there's no money in the budget or a staff person to dedicate to the ministry.
- The team can then present the summary to the pastor.
- Either nothing will happen or a ministry will be birthed that will not require the pastor to do the ministry.

2. Gift-based (see Romans 12:6-8)

3. Love-driven (see Romans 12:9-13)

3. The Research:

Churches that do not equip the saints to do the work of the ministry will almost always stay below two hundred members. It is impossible for a solo pastor to minister to more than about 125 people effectively and usually it is in the area of about 75-80. Major church growth can never happen unless God's design is followed.

4. The Practical Implementation:

- Pastors must change their view of themselves and their congregations' expectations of them. The pastor's perception of this job must change from "I pastor everyone" to "I make sure everyone gets pastored."
- Ministries are born out of gifts when God's design is followed.
- Ongoing training, modeling, and development of lay people are the keys to a successful Ephesians 4 church.

Key Questions:

1. How has your role as the pastor changed in light of God's design for the church?
2. How does your congregation view your role in the church?
3. How can you gently move your congregation to align their expectations with God's?

Resources at our website: LivingontheEdge.org

The Miracle of Life Change– DVD and Study Guide
The High Impact Church – chapter 9

1. The Objective:

To teach pastors the significance of spiritual gifts in the life of the body of Christ and our need to teach and deploy those in the church into ministry according to their gifts.

Growing churches train their members to discover and deploy their spiritual gift and passion both within and outside the church.

2. The Major Teaching Points:

Romans 1-3

Romans 4-5

Romans 6

Romans 7

Romans 8

Romans 9-11

⁴ Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his^[a] faith. ⁷ If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; ⁸ if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

Romans 12:4-8 (NIV)

- God has made and gifted people in your church to “play” a special position.
- Gifts are given by God's grace, to align with the purpose for which we were created.
- People should focus their energies around the area where God has gifted them.
- The impact on the local body, when ministries and church life grow out of gifts instead of filling slots and running programs, is dynamic!
- If you don't have a leader gifted for the task, with a team to support him/her, don't start the ministry.

- Study: Romans 12; 1 Corinthians 12; 1 Corinthians 14; 1 Peter 4:10

- How to use the concept of liberating people to grow the church:
 - See the pastoral role as coach rather than star player.

 - Allow people with the God-given dream, passion, gifting, and team, to initiate and champion ministries.

 - Recruit and unleash gifted people that are smarter, better, more experienced, and have more leadership than you.

When people operate within their gift area and passion, they will go far beyond anything you would ask of them.

- Help every believer discover their spiritual gifts.

- Create ways where it is easy for people to get involved in ministry.

3. The Research:

Growing churches provide on-going training to help people discover their gifts and provide specific ways for them to be developed in ministry according to their gifts. This is one of the highest correlations between churches that grow, versus those that do not.

Resources at our website: LivingontheEdge.org

Your Divine Design – DVD and Study Guide
The Strong and the Weak by Paul Tournier

1. The Objective:

To help pastors realize that a vital spiritual life is at the core of growing churches. Vital spirituality does not occur by accident.

Growing churches are characterized by regular and spontaneous times of prayer, fasting, and genuine repentance - both corporately and individually - as a natural part of their culture.

2. The Major Teaching Points:

Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed.

Mark 1:35 (NIV)

- a. Jesus **MODELED** dependency for us.
- b. Jesus had to **REFOCUS** and **REMEMBER** His purpose.

¹One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples." ²He said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come. ³Give us each day our daily bread. ⁴Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us. And lead us not into temptation.'"

⁵Then He said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and he goes to him at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread, ⁶because a friend of mine on a journey has come to me, and I have nothing to set before him.'

⁷"Then the one inside answers, 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children are with me in bed. I can't get up and give you anything.'⁸ I tell you, though he will not get up and give him the bread because he is his friend, yet because of the man's boldness he will get up and give him as much as he needs.

(continued...)

Luke 11:1-13 (NIV)

(continued...)

⁹ “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

¹¹ “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

Luke 11:1-13 (NIV)

- c. How do we connect with the Father, as Jesus did?
 - God is our “Abba” – a term of endearment and informality, literally translated “papa” or “daddy.”
 - Only someone who deeply esteems the relationship will feel unthreatened to call in the middle of the night.
 - Ask, He’ll answer.
 - Come to the HOW MUCH MORE God.
 - Accept we have nothing to bring to God.

- d. Vital spirituality must be modeled. Luke 6:40

- e. Vital spirituality must be taught.

- f. Vital spirituality must be practiced throughout the life of the church.

3. The Research:

In churches where prayer is viewed as an inspiring experience rather than an obligation or duty, there is a very high correlation to the quality and quantity of the church's growth.

4. Practical Implementation:

- a. A pastor's personal devotional life, **MARRIAGE** and family must model for the congregation what you are asking your people to do.
- b. The leadership environment of prayer, **SHARING** fasting, and repentance must be vibrant.
- c. **CRISIS** provides great opportunities to respond in prayer, fasting, and dependency before God.
- d. There must be built into the life and structure of the church a dependency upon God, with sensitivity to what the Spirit is doing.

Think through...

- o How do we keep prayer and dependency fresh in the service?
 - o How do we keep helping people to see that we desperately need God?
 - o When do we teach on prayer?
 - o When do we block off time to pray?
 - o How do we build prayer into the structures of the church?
- e. Pray in response to **STRESSES** in interpersonal relationships, finances, or lack of fruit.

Key Questions:

1. How will you keep prayer and dependency fresh in the service?
2. How will you keep helping people to see that we desperately need God?
3. When will you teach on prayer?
4. When will you block off time to pray?
5. How will you build prayer into the structures of the church?
6. How will you demonstrate prayer in response to stresses in interpersonal relationships, finances, or lack of fruit?

Resources at our website: LivingontheEdge.org

The High Impact Church, chapter 4

Ancient Paths to Intimacy with God by Chip Ingram, Audio series, LivingontheEdge.org

1. The Objective:

To help pastors to see that there is great variety and diversity in church structure but some structures are God-ordained. We want to teach pastors that there are predictable growth barriers and how to break through these barriers.

Growing churches understand the role of various size groups within the church, and have learned to recognize predictable plateaus within each and how to break through the sociological barriers to growth.

2. The Major Teaching Points:

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2: 42-47 (NIV)

a. The practice of the early church:

- Committed to the Word.
- Committed to making Christ the focal point of their celebrations.
- Committed to "one another" relationships.
- Committed to deeply praying.

- b. Two main structures within the early church:
 - The large group where there is inspiration, instruction from the Word, and worship.
 - The small group where there is accountability, sharing, deep relationships, and life-change.
 - The large group met in the temple courts and the small groups house to house.
- c. Jesus made it clear that new wine demands new wine skins:
 - Truth can never change.
 - Methods must always be open to change.
 - Traditions that are not from the Bible limit our structure.

3. The Research:

There are predictable, documented growth patterns in churches of all backgrounds and theological persuasions.

4. Practical Implementation:

- a. The pastor and church leadership must identify the purpose for each of the specific group sizes:
 - **LARGE** groups are where we inspire and instruct people (100 or more).
 - **MEDIUM** sized groups are for identity and to develop leaders, teachers, and trainers (20-80).
 - **SMALL** groups are where life-change, deep personal relationships, application, accountability, and caring occur (3-10 but can be sub-grouped between 10-20).

b. Common barriers or plateaus to church growth:

1. The House Church: 10 – 25 attendants



Members feel like a closed family or a club.



Having a vision and strategy for the lost.

2. The Single Cell Church: 25 – 85 attendants.



Feeling of closeness begins to diffuse.



Sub-Grouping.

3. The Small Church: 85 – 150 attendants



The family feeling breaks and members expect a pastor to do the ministry.



Make a love for the community more important than the family feel.

4. The Mid-Size Church: 150 – 250 attendants



Lack of staff.



Take the initiative in hiring the right staff.

5. The Large Church: 250 – 750 attendants



Lack of awareness of spiritual gifts and the need for every member to be a minister.



Review the pastoral role to train/equip the members to do the ministry.

6. The Very Large Church: 750 – 2,000 attendants



The senior pastor has usually grown a church beyond his leadership capabilities..



Get outside help.

7. The Mega Church: 2,000 – 10,000 attendants



Go inside each division and do the same as if it were a church of 100.

8. The META Church: A church organized for unlimited growth

Membership, pastoral care, counseling, and teaching on spiritual gifts and doctrine happen through the life of the small group. The small group even becomes the agency for evangelism.

- c. In summary, the three types of barriers are:
- SPIRITUAL barriers.
 - SPACE - when a room is 80 percent full, growth is impeded.
 - Sociological barriers – 100, 200, 800, 1,500, and 3,000 barriers.

In all structures, there have to be large group meetings, of inspiration, instruction and meeting with God, where there is critical mass. There have to be small groups, where people are really trained, so that life-change can happen.

Key Question:

1. How can you structure things so that what you teach in the large group can develop into life-change in the small group?

Resources at our website: LivingontheEdge.org

The High Impact Church, chapters 8 & 9
Natural Church Development by Christian Schwarz

1. The Objective:

To teach and explain the importance of the church gathered and to instruct on specific practical ways to develop and enhance the worship service.

Growing churches concentrate considerable time, energy, and resources into ensuring that the worship service, in all its aspects, is a spiritually transforming and motivating experience for those who attend.

2. The Major Teaching Points:

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All the believers were together and had everything in common. ⁴⁵ Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. ⁴⁶ Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Acts 2:42-47 (NIV)

- The model of the early church.
- The quality and consistency of the worship service has a significant impact on the local body's health and growth (1 Corinthians 11).

3. The Research:

Regardless of the type of church (formal or informal, charismatic or non-charismatic, seeker-sensitive or non-seeker-sensitive), the weekend service must be something people look forward to, as an inspirational and motivating experience that moves their heart, mind, soul, and spirit toward God. One of the highest correlations among growing churches is an inspiring worship service.

4. Practical Implementation:

a. Components of a quality worship service:

- Authentic worship from the heart.
- The Word is taught with clarity, application, and relevance.
- There is cultural sensitivity to your target audience.

b. Specific suggestions for developing an inspirational worship service:

- Organize the service where the form follows the Spirit.
- Senior pastors get involved in the worship planning process.
- The entire worship service should reinforce what you want your congregation to:
 - **Know**
 - **Feel**
 - **Do**, as a result of the service.
- Be creative, keep it fresh.

- c. How to honor the past, but not be tied to the specifics and the expectations of people as you introduce new practices in the worship service:

You decide whom you want to reach by the music you play.

- Teach your way toward inspirational worship services:
 - Teach that styles are not sacred.
 - Teach on how Jesus violated the Sabbath.
 - Teach new wine for new wineskins.
- Make small changes and applications.
- Make changes incrementally about your purpose and issues that are biblical, not based on your preferences.

Key Question:

1. What are some ideas that worked well toward creating inspiring worship services in your church? Share your best practices with others in your group.

Resources at our website: LivingontheEdge.org

The Holy Spirit by Chip Ingram, Audio series, LivingontheEdge.org

1. The Objective:

To motivate pastors to lead with an outward focus. To show pastors how to do this and recognize the normal slippage and drift that occurs in every church away from evangelism.

To encourage pastors that it will require strong leadership and accountability to keep the needs (both practical and spiritual) of those who do not belong to the church on the forefront of the church's mind.

Growing churches recognize that an outward focus on compassion and evangelism is essential to fulfilling Christ's command and requires them to identify and deploy those with the gift of evangelism and mercy into the community in both formal and informal ministries.

2. The Major Teaching Points:

Now the tax collectors and "sinners" were all gathering around to hear Him. ² But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴ "Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Does he not leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵ And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶ and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷ I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent...

⁹ And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' ¹⁰ In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."...

²⁴ For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

Luke 15:1-7, 9-10, 24 (NIV)

- a. How did Jesus feel about lost people?
- b. Pastors need to champion that lost people matter to God and they need to matter to us.
- c. The reality of heaven and hell.

**The Church is the only organization that exists, in part,
for those who do not yet belong.**

3. The Research:

The number one indicator of churches that have a consistent evangelistic outward focus and a steady stream of new believers is the identification of those with the gift of evangelism and a plan to deploy them.

4. Practical Implementation:

- a. Specific suggestions to identify those with the gift of evangelism in your church:
 - People who get excited when you talk about lost people.
 - People who constantly bring people to church.
 - People who volunteer for outreach projects.
- b. The need to make evangelism accessible to those with a wide variety of gifts.

- c. Capturing various seasons of the year when people are more open to hearing about Christ and using the arts as a means of evangelism.

- d. The necessity in our day-to-day evangelism with mercy ministry to give a platform for the gospel:
 - Tackle the most difficult area of need in your community.

 - Do something to demonstrate the love of Christ.

 - Acts of mercy will create a platform for the gospel to go out.

- e. The pastor's role:
 - Model it.

 - Preach it.

 - Champion it.

If you think your heart is growing in love for God, but your heart is not growing in love for lost people, you are deceived.

Key Questions:

1. How passionate are you about lost people?
2. Who are the people with the gift of evangelism in your church?
3. What are the biggest needs within your community?
4. How can your church be mobilized to meet those needs using a wide range of gifts to build the platform for evangelism?

Resources at our website: LivingontheEdge.org

Share the Love by Chip Ingram, Audio series, LivingontheEdge.org

1. The Objective:

To help pastors effectively shepherd their flocks through the formation and multiplication of small groups.

Growing churches decentralize pastoral care and discipleship through the empowering and ongoing multiplication of holistic small groups.

These small groups are characterized by other-centered, sacrificial, life-on-life relationships that challenge and encourage Christians toward Christ-likeness, evangelism, biblical literacy, and acts of service.

2. The Major Teaching Points:

¹² When He had finished washing their feet, He put on His clothes and returned to His place. "Do you understand what I have done for you?" He asked them. ¹³ "You call Me 'Teacher' and 'Lord,' and rightly so, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet.

¹⁵ I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. ¹⁶ I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. ¹⁷ Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them.

³⁴ "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you love one another."

John 13:12-17, 34-35 (NIV)

- a. The command of Jesus requires that we develop holistic small groups. (John 13:34-35)

- b. The example of Jesus' ministry and His development of His disciples model the priority of small groups in ministry. (Luke 6:40)
- c. The practice of the early church meeting from house to house confirms that holistic small groups are critical to the development of a healthy, growing church.
- d. The evidence of small group ministry in Korea, China, and multiple other cultures around the world affirms that holistic small groups are an essential part of the disciple-making process and the fulfilling of the Great Commission.

**The small group becomes the main distribution vehicle
for New Testament love to occur.**

3. The Research:

The continuous multiplication of small groups is a universal church growth principle. Churches that are growing qualitatively and quantitatively, 78% of them promote the multiplication of small groups through cell division (Natural Church Development).

4. Practical Implementation:

- a. What is the role of the senior pastor in the development of a small group ministry? What must he do? What must he empower others to do?
 - Make a commitment to developing small groups as your life-change agents in the church.
 - Become secure in who you are as a pastor.
 - The primary purpose of the pastor is to develop holistic small groups.

- Specifics:
 1. Preach about Jesus and His small groups.
 - Teach through the book of Acts, through the lens of small groups.
 2. Model small groups
 3. Provide curriculum to guard doctrine.
 4. Find the most gifted person in the church to lead the small group ministry.
- b. How can a small group ministry be developed, enhanced, or revitalized?
 - Find that key leader.
- c. What must occur to provide small-group leaders with the oversight and coaching necessary to help them minister to their groups effectively?
 - Develop a structure where on a regular basis, small group leaders get loved, refreshed, encouraged, and trained.
- d. What kind of organizational models are needed to allow the small group ministry to continue to remain healthy?
- e. What resources are available to ensure doctrinal accuracy in small groups?

**Your church will never grow beyond the commitment
of your leaders...**

**The #1 problem in small group ministry is lack
of oversight of small group leaders.**

Key Questions:

1. What role do small groups play in your church?

2. How can you build on what is in place to make small groups even more effective life-change agents?

Resources at our website: LivingontheEdge.org

Unstoppable by Chip Ingram, Audio series, LivingontheEdge.org

The Miracle of Life Change by Chip Ingram, Audio & DVD series, LivingontheEdge.org

The Invisible War by Chip Ingram, Audio & DVD series, LivingontheEdge.org

1. The Objective:

To help pastors “begin with the end in mind” and learn to think plan, and develop ministries with clear goals and strategies to fulfill the vision.

Growing churches are highly intentional about what they do, when they do it, and how they do it - the preaching calendar, the strategy for assimilating new believers, the process of discipleship, the educational programs, the leadership development, and even the logistics – such as service times, frequency, and days of the week for events and meetings, are developed, evaluated and/or changed, to fulfill the mission of the church.

2. The Major Teaching Points:

²⁸ We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. ²⁹ To this end I labor, struggling with all His energy, which so powerfully works in me.

Colossians 1:28-29 (NIV)

- a. Paul had a very specific objective in mind with regard to the focus and the fruit of his ministry – the spiritual maturity of every believer.
- b. Paul also had a specific strategy and game-plan to fulfill his mission of bringing people to spiritual maturity: proclamation, admonition, and teaching.
- c. It takes effort but effort that is dependent on God.

The mind of man plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps. Proverbs 16:9

- d. God expects us to use our minds and to make specific plans to fulfill the dreams that He puts on our hearts and the commands given us as church leaders with regard to the Great Commission.

**The Danger
of Two Extremes**

Everything has been so carefully planned that there is no room for the Spirit to lead.

Planned – Extreme

Being intentional with planning, consideration, and prayer.

Balanced Intentionality

Nothing is organized so as to “let the Spirit lead.”

Spirit-led – Extreme

3. The Research:

Churches that are highly intentional about achieving their vision are characterized by having specific goals, strategies, and tactics to accomplish that vision.

4. Practical Implementation:

1. What would an infinite God want to do through the group of people gathered together, called your ministry team, in your church?
2. Develop a strategic plan to be intentional about the growth.
 - a. Get highly intentional about the preaching calendar.
 - Preach in a way that aligns with the biggest needs in the church.
 - Preach to give direction.

Key Ingredients:

Target	- that lines up with the overall vision of the church, e.g. To see lost people come to Christ.
↓	
Goal or Objective	- specific outcome, e.g. To see 15 people come to Christ in the next four months.
↓	
Plan or Strategy	- To achieve the goal, e.g. Build relationships with non-Christians and model a heart for lost people, preach a six-part series about how to be equipped to share your faith, recruit 10 families who will open their homes
↓	
Tactics	- The specific action steps taken to implement the plan, e.g. On Tuesday night, I will train the leaders. Model a dinner party with unbelieving neighbors.

- b. Be sensitive to different seasons of ministry in the calendar year.
- c. Be sensitive to different seasons of ministry in the church's history.
- d. Create a strategy for assimilation of new people.
- e. Create a specific means for discipleship through classes, on-going training, and small groups.
- f. Evaluate current practices to determine if they are helping to achieve the mission.

For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him.

2 Chronicles 16:9 (NIV)

Key Questions:

For the next four months...

1. What should the goal of your church be?
2. What is your plan or strategy to achieve that goal?
3. What specific action steps will you take to implement your plan?

Suggestions for your consideration:

- Plan a staff retreat with specific goals laid out with leadership.
- Biannual evaluation of the church's health, according to the eight vital ingredients outlined in the book, *Natural Church Development* by Christian A. Schwarz

Resources at our website: LivingontheEdge.org

Unstoppable by Chip Ingram, Audio series, LivingontheEdge.org

The High Impact Church, chapter 9

1. The Objective:

To help pastors understand the importance of measuring and promoting the qualitative factors in the life of the church, over and above any quantitative factors.

We need to understand that it is not only theologically correct to make our goal to become more loving, but also pragmatically more effective, when seeking to grow a church with high impact, to measure the qualities of love in the environment of the church, rather than simply targeting numerical goals.

Growing churches are characterized by warm, caring, initiatory relationships that grow out of a culture committed to hospitality, laughter, and the celebration of who God is and what He is doing among them.

2. The Major Teaching Points:

Romans 12:

Verses 1-2 : A holy offering,

Verses 3-5 : An interdependent body,

Verses 6-8 : Supernatural abilities and gifts to fulfill God's purposes,

Verses 9-13 : All happening in an environment of love.

⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with God's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

Romans 12:9-13 (NIV)

One of the most powerful and attractive means of reaching unbelievers and building up the body of Christ, is for authentic, warm, loving relationships to be spontaneous and ever-growing, as a part of the church culture.

**Love is giving another person what they need the most,
when they deserve it the least,
at great personal cost.**

3. The Research:

It can be demonstrated that there is a significant connection between “laughter in the church” and the church’s qualitative and numerical growth. It is interesting that such a significant factor which, according to the data, definitely has the status of a church growth principle, receives almost no mention in church growth literature. (Natural Church Development, page 36)

**The business card of the early church was JOY.
The marketing strategy of the early church was LOVE.**

4. Practical Implementation:

- a. This demands **MODELING** by the senior pastor and key leaders in the church that they do not take themselves too seriously but take God very seriously.
- b. A **SENSE OF HUMOR** is a part of the formal and informal life of the church.

- c. The hospitality and specific mechanisms for building a culture of warmth and caring are absolutely vital in the life of the church. Ways to do this include:
1. Have a good system of ushers and greeters in your church. Enlist ushers who love people.
 2. Train people to look for the needs and find out who might need to be loved.
 3. Be a friendly, warm, loving pastor.
 4. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love, giving preference to one another.

**Love, in the body of Christ, is the real me,
meeting real needs,
for the right reason, in the right way.**

- d. Although we as humans tend to fall in love with size, as a matter of success, research indicates that churches over 1,000 are usually weakest in the area of loving relationships. Thus, the crucial need is for:
1. A vital small-group ministry.
 2. An intentional focus, in the worship services, on the importance of the individual.
 3. The modeling of genuine concern and love for the community.

**We tend to confuse excellence with professionalism.
We confuse performance with genuine passion.**

Key Question:

1. What one thing can you do to become more loving, which will increase the atmosphere of love in your church?

Resources at our website: LivingontheEdge.org

Love One Another by Chip Ingram, Audio series, LivingontheEdge.org

1. The Objective:

To help pastors develop a Kingdom mindset with other pastors and churches in their community, around the essentials in Scripture, and to specifically repent of the prejudice, criticism, isolationism, and gossip that has occurred in the past.

Growing churches do not see other churches as rivals or competitors, but seek to join forces with those who are like-minded on the MAJOR issues of historic Christianity, by regular times of prayer, worship, interaction of pastoral staff, and the offering of practical help to one another, in order to impact their entire community for Christ.

2. The Major Teaching Points:

³ Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. ⁴ Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Philippians 2:3-4 (NIV)

- a. As pastors, we are commanded to think of the interests of others. (Philippians 2:3-4)

- b. The answer to Jesus' prayer, in John 17, is the unity of His body. By this, we do not mean uniformity but genuine unity, from the heart, based on the essential truths of scripture.

- c. **KINGDOM** mindset is demanded by Jesus' command to love one another, in John 13:34-35, as the evidence of the reality that God sent Jesus to save the world from its sin and that He is the Messiah.
- d. Jesus made it very clear to His disciples, in Luke 9:50, that there is no room for spiritual elitism in the Kingdom of God.
- e. Luke 6:38 makes it clear that as we give to others, we become the objects of God's blessing. This applies to our relationships with other churches and ministries as well.

3. The Research:

In the last twenty-five years, denominational loyalty has greatly weakened among the churched and un-churched. Today, people are looking for authentic relationships, spiritual vitality, the inspirational proclamation of God's Word, with life application, and a church with a sense of purpose and destiny that is doing visible good in the community.

A church committed to these principles will attract growth in a far great degree than churches that protect their own local brand or denominational affiliation. Although we honor our denominational backgrounds and differences, they must not be barriers to our genuine fellowship in Christ.

4. Practical Implementation:

- a. **BUILD** relationships with pastors of other churches in your community.
- b. **PRAY** with other pastors in your community.

- c. Seek opportunities to serve other Bible-believing churches in tangible ways.
- d. Consider joint times of worship for key leaders of congregations.
- e. **REGULAR** _____ prayers for one another in services.
- f. **JOINT** _____ evangelistic efforts.
- g. **JOINT** _____ financial participation in other churches' ministries.

What pastor could use your encouragement, today?

Key Question:

1. How has this session challenged you?
2. What action steps do you need to take to become more Kingdom minded?

Suggestion for your consideration:

Share Living on the Edge Small Group DVD materials with neighbor churches.

Resources at our website: LivingontheEdge.org

The High Impact Church, chapters 5 & 6
Message Notes from www.LivingontheEdge.org