

**TRANSFORMATIONAL CHURCH STRATEGIC SESSIONS
RESPONSES FROM THOSE IN ATTENDANCE
SUNDAY, AUGUST 29, 2010**

Responses Grouped By Subject

Worship –

People are not aware of the specific resources.

We may know of some of the resources, but we do not know the specifics of others.

Walk does not match the talk.

Difference in knowing about resources and using them. To see the importance in the difference and how we can narrow the gap between the two.

Individual commitment doesn't seem to be there.

Are people aware of opportunities?

Discussion opens awareness and encouragement.

A sharing of what worship means to us causes an interest in others.

To bridge the gap

Self-awareness

Accountability to self and God

Each person interprets the worship response different which would affect how they responded to the question.

Why is it important to discuss difference? Determine way to use the material provided in a more effective way. To evaluate your personal worship to walk. If our personal walk is not as it should be we will not be growing or witnessing to others.

Gap Due to: schedule demands; 80/20 rule: Some folks doing too much others not helping at all

Reason for discussion: is to see if we need to change the tools and resources.

Should we change schedules? Our priorities – what are they?

Outside interest. Not using time wisely – apathy.

To begin applying what we learned – be convicted personally.

Awareness/Acting on Knowledge/Priority/Time arrangement

Improve church/individual awareness – effectiveness/Balance perception

Time restraints

Lack of focus

Too many distractions

May need an accountability partner

Get to know others better

Personally we need to change the way we do evangelism

We are aware of the resources but we may not take full advantage of them every week due to time constraints. It's important to reach young families where they are in 2010, e.g. more web based resources, on-line library, more library hours, Facebook page, podcasts, etc.

It may not be a lack of passion as much as it is an honest assessment of the individual's personal prayer lift, etc.

It causes us to search out a way to change to make a greater difference, to be more effective.

7 Words that will kill a church: "We never did it that way before."

We have to be willing to change and be uncomfortable in order to be more effective.

Why the difference in worship?

People are answering personally or are not sure what others are doing and answered in the middle ground.

We're not using the tools.

People's perception of what worship is may be different.

Why important to discuss difference?

We need to know why when we have the tools we are not using them to grow in worship.

Having accountability partners and small groups.

Tangible programs and systems we can see. The decrease in passion is due to a lack of certainty about what our fellow members are actually doing "throughout the week."

The importance of discussing the above difference is to find opportunities to examine our role and our experience with fellow members throughout the week. We discuss it to realize our actual lack of accountability.

We know human nature – so we can see the reality vs. the perception (or ideal)

Lazy

Too much drawing as in other directions

Spread out too far – not a sense of "church"

Waning passion

Personal commitment

No change.

No involvement.

Opens the problem up.

Reasons for gap in passion – children's activities competing for parents' time, individuals not making time for personal worship.

Why is it important to discuss the difference? To realize where we are lacking; to discover priorities and how to make God more of one

Personal response – self assessment

Priorities

Don't recognize spiritual warfare.

Impact our corporate worship

Impact our spiritual growth.

Relational Intentionality –

People don't know the plan for intentional greeting.

More intentional Greeter training/Usher training.

Use to have visitor teams go to see new visitors.

We are not trained or pursue a plan to further the small group experience for our visitors.

We need to have a way to identify our visitors so we can minister to them properly.

Lack of knowledge of how our church handles visitors.

We need to let the church know what we currently do.

We need to re-establish outreach leaders in our small groups.

Congregation needs to be more cognizant of visitors sitting around them and invite immediately to Sunday School with them or maybe lunch if 2nd service. Make the connection!

Decrease in attendance: Visitors did not feel being apart

Follow-up of members when miss more than one Sunday in a row. This is not happening and people want to feel missed (human nature).

Be more intentional with follow up contact.

Personal assignment to member to make contact and answer questions (establish relationship)

We need to be more intentional about getting involved in others lives. We want personal relationships but don't spend time developing them, allowing people to "slip out" with ease.

Difference due to: greeting to connecting = big step between.

2 services make it difficult to know visitors sometimes.

Personalities may not be as outgoing vs. others.

Effect on attendance: Yes; church hopping (always seeking perfection); generational differences; people who want to keep church life and private life separate.

Pastor puts much emphasis on small groups.

Not always aware of newcomers (2 services)

Decrease in young adults/children – other activities taking their time – priorities in wrong place.

Challenge of assimilation/welcome but not directed/challenge of 2 services
Retention/knowledge of interest/knowledge of ministries to get involved in

We don't really know if there's a welcome center which takes newcomers to a class.

Lack of follow-up by teachers

Phone calls

Post cards

If there's not a "grabber" to hook visitors, they may not come back. They may go to another church.

Where's the emphasis? In-reach or out-reach

Some may want a nondenominational fellowship

We need to do a better job greeting people in parking lot and helping visitors find parking.

Greeters are gone when late "new visitors" arrive.

Members should park in grass lot (except elderly).

Greeter in hallway to help people find a class to go to.

Improve "welcoming and greeting" – offer coffee, food, etc. More marked parking spots for visitors.

Our decrease in attendance is due to our lack of constant focus on visitors.

Maybe we need to form a visitor team that rotates.

We don't need to assume that if we are not on the Greeter Committee that we have no responsibility.

Multiple touches are essential.

Decrease in attendance: lost touch with people that aren't in your service.

100+ 1st-5th graders on Wed. PM 4:00+ on Sunday morning – Lack of children's minister (to help provide consistency). Other activities on the weekend. Young families not connected.

Lack of follow through (up)

We're a friendly church but not a church that makes friends.

Signage (need more/better)/maps.

Greeters have handout information.

We need to know what others do and are doing.

Communication is lacking.

Decrease in passion comes from lack of awareness about how well our current programs and systems (to deal with newcomers) actually work.

The difference in passion could relate to the drop in attendance because we have not realized that we all have a role in being intentional in reaching out to newcomers and NOT just rely on programs and systems.

Individual members don't take responsibility to invite, leave it to the committee and staff to get it done.

Visitors are not connecting with members – not finding a place to belong/friends/place to serve – so going elsewhere.

Limited time between services – causes loss of time to connect

We hesitate to tell people where they need to go.

Not intentional enough to follow up.

Not attentive to people.

Connecting newcomers to small groups

Uncertainty in knowing who is new

Plan for greeting new people? Or new members? Not really working.

What could this difference have to do with attendance?

New people are being left to discover small group on their own

With 2 services, assume people are involved in one or the other.

We are only being surface friendly, not engaging in meaningful relationships.

Need to make people more aware of different class options

We need to step out of our comfort zone and personally invite visitors to small groups.

Take initiative to build relationships.

80/20 rule newcomer "falls through the crack."

Not truly being friends – surface relationships

Can at times become a "click" within our small group

Prayerful Dependence –

Quiet prayers are easier than verbal prayers.

Important for us to develop a stronger prayer life.

Are we missing opportunities to put people to work?

Do we need to have prayer training?

We need to be more intentional when we say we are going to pray for them. Why not pray right then?

Uncomfortable praying out loud/in large groups.

Why important: If we can't pray with our church, how can we pray to the lost when given the opportunity.

We see ourselves as spontaneous with prayer as a church with Travis in worship, in our Sunday School class, and around campus.

Difference – we have a system but gap to using it. Uncomfortable praying out loud; personal prayer life needs to be practiced; we are use to order and spontaneous prayer is outside of that.

Easy to submit requests – Always should be open for prayer whenever needed.

More involvement intercessory Prayer Room – more awareness of same

Comfort in large group sessions

Have to have relationships to be able to pray
Pray right then and there; if not, may forget

People are more comfortable and spontaneous in praying in their small groups as opposed to worship.

It may be a generational (e.g. age) gap or denominational issue. If leadership promotes, we follow but we may not be so comfortable.

In all cases, dialogue is important if we are going to become more effective.

We have the process in place; people know where they can go to get a lot of people to pray.

We feel more comfortable in small groups.

We are more certain about the systems to promote prayer needs and less certain about individuals praying.

Wording of 2nd? Spontaneous

More of this "spontaneous prayer" happens within small groups than in large services.

To encourage more spontaneous prayer among our members

We aren't too comfortable with spontaneous in worship service.

Like order and continuity.

It is a reflection of our passion.

Difference in responses about prayer

Some people are not comfortable with praying out loud

Easy to submit the prayer request, not as easy to put into action

Good to know to transform our hearts and church

Not being comfortable

Realizing that prayer IS our relationship with God.