

Characteristics of Growing Churches: Witness, Enfold, and Deploy

Session 4

What is a Growing Church?

Notes



How Does Church Growth Happen?

1. Growing Churches _____ : _____ the gospel with clarity and in relevant ways.
2. Growing Churches _____ : _____ new people.
3. Growing Churches _____ : _____ new people for life and ministry (Ephesians 4:11-13).



Twelve Characteristics of Growing Churches

1. Go to the _____ (Luke 19:10).
2. Use _____ groups.
3. Participate in social activities with _____
4. Maintain natural _____ of relationships
5. _____ in order to win the Lost (1 Corinthians 9:19-23).
6. Minister to the _____ (Leviticus 19:9-10).
7. Include new people _____.
8. Demonstrate an _____, _____ Christian life within the church that is _____ to others.



9. Equip members for _____ maturity.
10. Equip members for _____ in the Body.
11. Equip members for ministry to the _____.
12. Equip members to _____ new churches (reproduction).



Discussion

Evaluating and Monitoring Church Growth

Take Your Church's Pulse Tool

Take Your Church's Pulse (TYCP) is an instrument that can help you diagnose your congregation's health by evaluating several key areas of church life. It serves as a tool for self-evaluation and planning in the local church, two important processes for churches that seek both quantitative and qualitative growth. This tool is provided free of charge by MNM on their website - www.multiplicationnetwork.org or at www.takeyourchurchpulse.org.

In addition to serving as a measuring instrument that reveals vital information about the state of a congregation's health, the purpose of TYCP is to encourage dialogue and deep reflection among leaders, members, and pastors of local churches regarding the important elements that determine a congregation's development and health. The following ten characteristics are described in the book *Take Your Church's Pulse*.¹ They are divided into two groups: five key commitments and five vital functions.

¹ The book is also available for free download at www.multiplicationnetwork.org or at www.takeyourchurchpulse.org.

5 KEY COMMITMENTS	5 VITAL FUNCTIONS
A clear and inspiring vision	Compelling witness
A mobilizing leadership	Comprehensive discipleship
A motivated ministering body	Compassionate service
Proper stewardship of resources	Caring and welcoming community
Integration of text and context	Dynamic worship and prayer

General Recommendations for the User

- This is a process rather than an activity.
- The questionnaire should be filled out by as many church members as possible.
- The form should be filled out by all of the leaders who participate in the process.
- The spirit of the process should be constructive.

Suggested Steps for the Process

1. Explore the tool by downloading it from the website.
2. Secure agreement from your church leadership to begin the process.
3. Sign up - have your pastor go to www.multiplicationnetwork.org or www.takeyourchurchspulse.org and find the survey. There is an option to sign up online that will provide an electronic survey for everyone to fill out.
4. Share the survey link with leadership first.
5. Share the link with the congregation and encourage everyone to fill it out.
6. Look at the results and determine a strategy for selecting priorities for your goals.
7. Share the results with the congregation and discuss them.
8. Decide the next steps for your church's future.

Note: This tool is only worth the healthy conversation that it engenders among leaders who seek to make prayerful changes led by the Holy Spirit to be a better witness for the Kingdom of God in their community.

Remember that becoming a healthier church is a process that needs to be rooted in God's Word and will.

Action Plan for Module 10

Attend another church and imagine you are an unbeliever. Would you come back to that church? Why or why not? How does it compare to your church? What did you learn from this that will help you in your church?

Think about the churches in your area. Which of them are growing and which are not? Compare the characteristics of each to those discussed in this lesson. Which characteristics appear to be the reasons for their growth or lack thereof? Can you define other helpful traits?

Work through the Take Your Church's Pulse tool with your church planting team available at <http://edutecnologia.org/pulse/index.php?lang=en>. Reflect on what your responses tell you about the growth of your church start.

Based on what you have learn through the activities above, write a 1-2 page report on the growth of your church plant addressing, among others, the following points. Give this report to your facilitator at the Module 10 training:

- Is your church growing? In what sense? Numerically? Spiritually? Socially? Some of these? All of these?
- Am I fulfilling my responsibility to equip the believers for ministry or am I trying to do it myself? How am I equipping them? Is it working?
- Why would an unbeliever want to come to my church? Why would a new believer want to stay? Can I make my church more receptive to them?
- Have I started a new church plant yet? Cell groups? If not, what am I waiting for?

Break (15 min.)