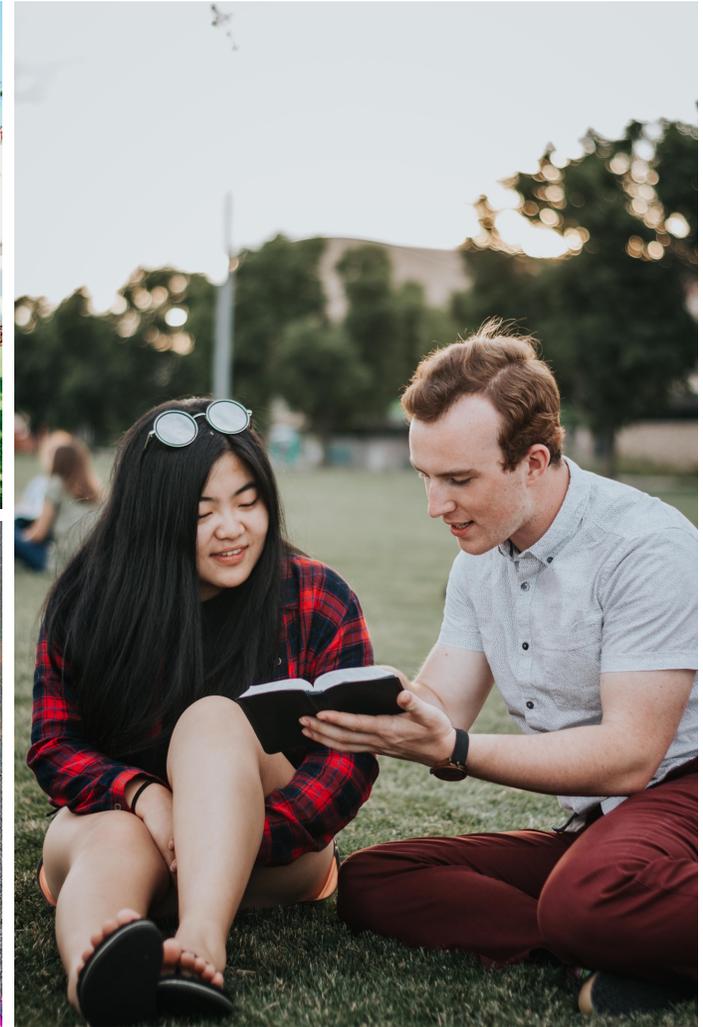


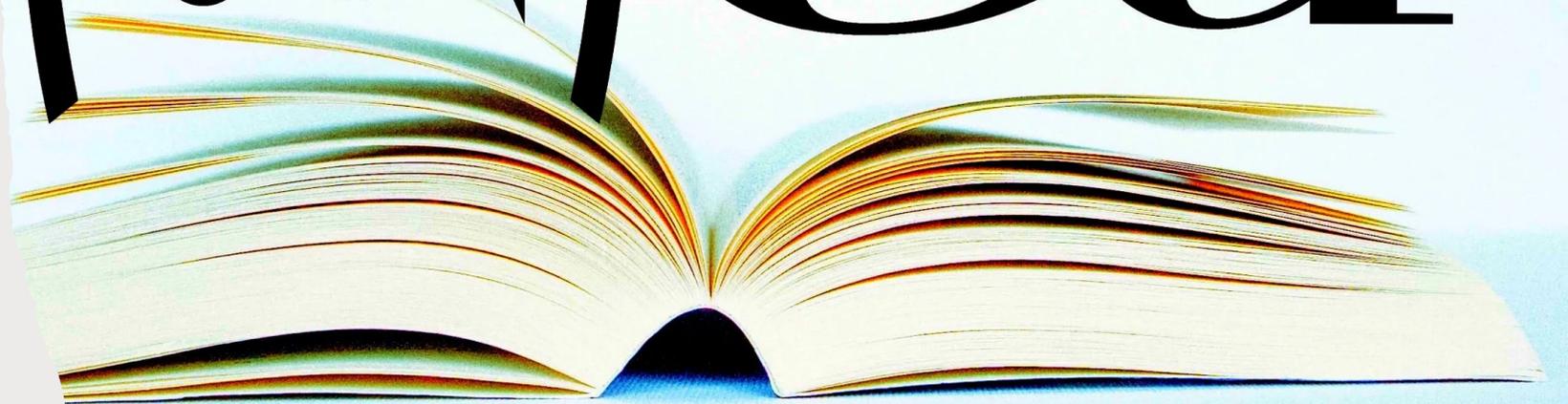
# Outreach



Reaching the  
Unchurched

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

(UN)churched





# UNCHURCHED BELIEVER

These are believers in God and Christians, but they are not affiliated with a local church. They reject the need for such a connection.

## Barna Group - 2014

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Today's unchurched are much less likely to come from a church background than ever before. Furthermore, unchurched people today have different expectations of church involvement from those of previous decades. These changes are the result of shifting personal attitudes as well as significant changes in the broader cultural landscape. In other words, **in spite of our “Christian” self descriptions, more than one-third of America’s adults are essentially secular in belief and practice.** If nothing else, **this helps explain why America has experienced a surge in unchurched people**—and presages a continuing rise in this population (“Five Trends among the Unchurched”).

- This is not how it is supposed to be.
  - **1 Thess. 5:14** And we urge you, brothers, admonish the idle, encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.
- It is not what the early church looked like.
  - **Acts 2:42** And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.
- Let us not forget the loneliness of the COVID period!



- The church is not a building
- It is people called out of darkness and into God's marvelous light.
  - **1 Pet. 2:9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.
- It was not an after thought of God's either.
  - **Matt. 16:18** And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.



# How do we Reach the Unchurched?

## Casual Contact



### New Testament examples:

- Lydia - **Acts 16:13**
- Philippian Jailer – **Acts 16:25-34**

### Personal examples:

- Amarillo barber – Paul Smith
- How about you?

# How do we Reach the Unchurched?



# How does that work?

1. It starts with compassion, we must care about the souls of lost people!
2. We open our eyes for opportunities.
3. We must open our mouths.
4. We must open our Bibles.

# We must have compassion

- Compassion is not Passion
- We may be passionate about a hobby, sports or politics.
- We must be compassionate about their soul and motivated to do something about it.





# We must open our eyes

- To see the opportunities in front of us.
- **John 4:35** Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.

# We must open our Mouths

- Philip did when speaking with the Eunuch.
  - **Acts 8:30** ...“Do you understand what you are reading?”
- Philip did when speaking to Nathanael.
  - **John 1:46** Nathanael said to him, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” Philip said to him, “Come and see.”



## What can we say when opportunities arise?

- “I would love for you to come with me to worship this Sunday. Are you interested?”
- “My congregation is having a special study on Coping with Suffering. Do you have any interest in studying with us?”
- “How can I pray for you today?”
- “Our congregation has been such a blessing to us with the support and love we’ve received. Do you worship anywhere?”

# We must open our Mouths

- When we do open our mouths, some will accept our invitations others will not.
- Paul experienced both when he spoke in Athens:
  - **Acts 17:32** Now when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked. But others said, “We will hear you again about this.”





# We must open our Bibles

- We must teach God's Word, it is what the unchurched need. **Rom. 10:16-17**
- They need to learn what Christ has to say about the church.
- They need to learn that the church is made up of imperfect people striving to grow in Jesus Christ. **Eph. 4:11-16**
- They need to see the example of togetherness of the first century church. **Acts 2:42-47; 4:32**
- They need to see how the church is designed to help us grow and sustain our faith. **Gal. 6:1-2; 1 Cor. 5:5**

# How do we Reach the Unchurched?

## Be Different



- They need to see that the church behaves differently from the world. **1 Thess. 4:11; 1 Pet. 1:16; 2:11-12**
- Great damage can be caused when there is no difference!

# How do we Reach the Unchurched?

## Make Worship a Priority



- Do they see that in our conduct? **Heb. 10:25**
- Seeing us place such a high priority on every opportunity to worship God may motivate them to do the same.
- Let's be like Chick-fil-A and Hobby Lobby!

# How do we Reach the Unchurched?

## Make Visitors Feel Comfortable



- Welcome and assist them.
- We have one chance to make a first impression.

# Conclusion

- **We can reach the Unchurched.**
- **We must:**
  - **Take advantage of Casual Contact.**
  - **Be different than the world.**
  - **Make worship a priority.**
  - **Make visitors welcome.**
- **The Gospel still has the power to save!**