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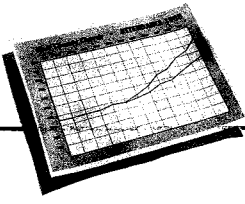
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VIDEO

Videotape



Dear Pastor,

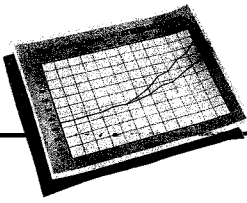
At seminar after seminar, I am asked the question, "How do I go to two services?" Most pastors know that two services can lead to growth, but many do not know exactly how to go about implementing a second service. This video resource packet was developed in response to this need in the body of Christ.

Part I of the video answers the question "Why?" Part II gives the details of how to implement two services. The appendixes contain the questionnaires and other forms necessary for gathering the information required to make an informed decision on whether to go to two services.

I pray that God will give you wisdom as you contemplate this action that will lead to the growth of His church.

In His Service,

Elmer L. Towns



How To Go to Two Services

This video resource packet is first and foremost a tool for pastors. Use it to learn how to go to two services, and then share Part I with your key leaders to educate them about the advantages of adding an additional worship service or Sunday School. This tool can also help you remove fears that members have regarding expansion. (Members will not endorse a second service until they are convinced it is biblical, helpful, and not a threat to them.)

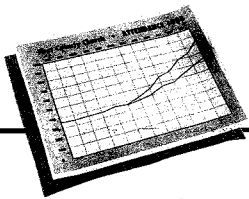
Show Part I of the video and provide viewers with copies of the worknotes. You may want to stop the video during the viewing for discussion or you may ask the viewers to write down their questions and hold them until after the showing is over.

Following are some of the groups to whom the video may be shown to gain approval or support:

1. Official Board
2. Finance Committee
3. Trustees
4. Sunday School workers
5. Senior saints
6. Paid staff

Three positive things can happen as a result of showing this video to church leaders: they will know *why* and *how* to add a second service; they will be involved in developing the project rather than criticizing it; and they will help convince the average attender to support the idea.

NOTE: We recommend that the pastor view the entire video, but only show Part I to members because Part II contains pointers on how the pastor should work with his board and members to effect the change to two services.



Why Go to Two Services

One of the most crucial decisions facing many churches is whether to add a second service. After this decision is made positively, the next questions to be answered are "When?" and "How?" Usually the last question to be addressed (which should have been first) is "Why?"

First, some clarifications are in order. Several terms will be used synonymously (that is, *second service*, *multiple services*, *additional service*, and *early service* (because most churches will add a second service earlier on Sunday morning)). The packet also includes the terms *split-level Sunday School* (services) and *Flip Flop Sunday School* (services).

The terms *worship service* and *preaching service* will be used interchangeably, recognizing the nomenclature of both liturgical and free church groups. For the same reasons, the terms *sanctuary* and *auditorium* will also be used interchangeably.

Because the Sunday morning worship service is the focal point of the local church, when the pastor plans to add a second service, it could be the most revolutionary action he has ever taken. If he handles it wrong, adding a second service could raise serious questions about the credibility of his ministry. However, if he handles it properly, it could do more to establish his leadership than any other act.

The primary barrier to starting another preaching service is fear of failure. Innovitis is fear of innovative change. Because adding a second church service may disrupt the most valued aspect of a church (that is, the Sunday morning worship service), there may be more fear of it than of any other change.

The minister fears:

1. Loss of members
2. Loss of following
3. Loss of prestige/respect
4. Loss of job
5. Loss of leadership (people will see that he does not know how to implement two services)

The board fears:

1. The unknown ("We've never done it.")
2. Compromise ("We don't want to seem to be following the Catholic church.")

NOTES

3. Members will use the early church for more leisure/recreation on Sunday

Some are fearful of thunder or lightning, but proper knowledge takes away that fear. Three positive things can result from using this resource packet:

1. Church leaders will know why and how to add a second service. Knowing that others have successfully followed this strategy will give them confidence.
2. They will be involved in developing the project rather than criticizing it.
3. They will help sell the idea to the average attender.

Most of the resistance to a second service comes from those who do not see a need for it. We will consider eight reasons for having a second service. Notice that the very last reason is because of overcrowding.

1. *To carry out the Great Commission.* The purpose of the church is the Great Commission: "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:19,20). The three aspects to this command are shown below.

The Three Aspects of the Great Commission

Teach, which means discipling, making them followers of Christ.

Baptize, which means churching, bonding them to the local church.

Teaching, which means instructing, communicating Bible truth.

The church is commanded to do more than lead people to make a decision for Christ. Evangelism is communicating the Gospel in an understandable manner and motivating people to believe in Christ and become responsible members of His church. This is discipling.

Baptism is more than making a water identification with a church. Our task is "churching" people, which means actively involving them in the local assembly with their support, service, giving, and presence.

When extra worship services are held, everyone can be involved in the church, thus carrying out the Great Commission in a tangible way.