

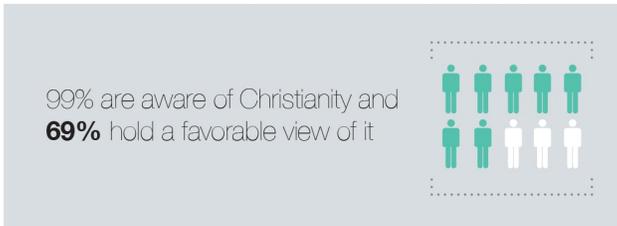
Title: The King's Gambit

Blurb: How to break the stalemate between your church and your community. In this session, we will identify the arch-enemies of church engagement and give you several “opening moves” to disrupt the unspoken force field between your church and the unchurched.

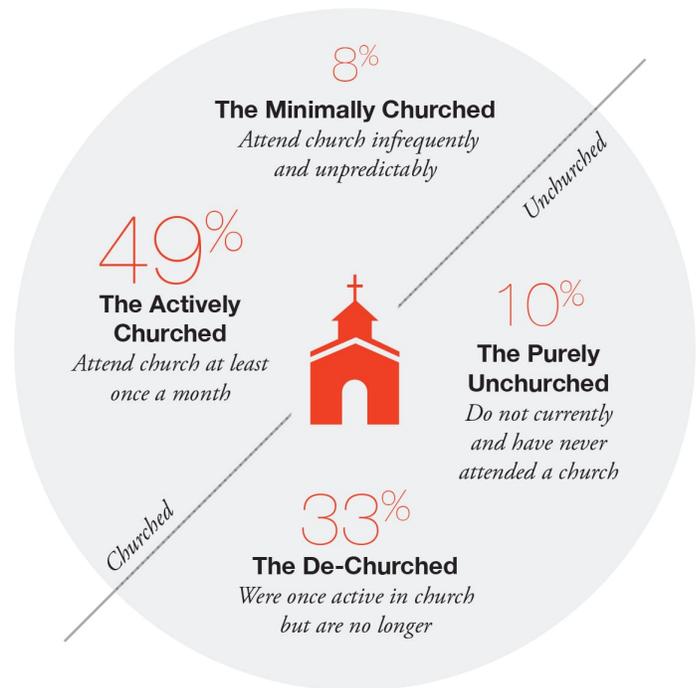
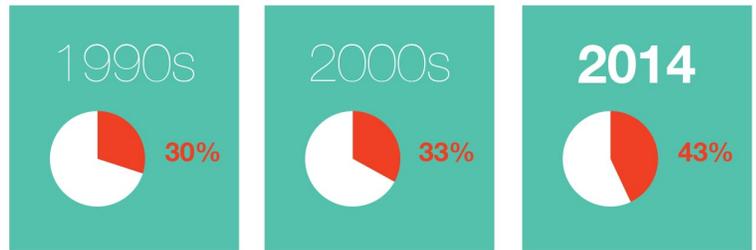
INVISIBLE FORCEFIELD

between your church and community. — — SHIELD of NO FAITH.

The Churchless.



The rise of churchlessness in America



There is a disconnect we have to address. God having the best for me... And the Church community being a primary way that I access God's best for me.

How can we get people's attention, awareness and begin a dialogue with them before they come to a service. What new tactics can we use as instruments of God's mission of deliverance?

“The mission of God is always shifting our paradigms to accomplish its purpose” - David Bosch, *Transforming Mission*.

GAMBITS

In chess, your first move is called your opening. And reveals your strategy.

If your first move involves a stray of sacrifice for positional advantage, it's called a gambit.

It's from gambetto - an Italian word that means TO TRIP.

Gambits are bold and aggressive - They are not smooth.

A gambit says Im willing for this too look a little messy to achieve the results I want.

It's an offer than has to be accepted or declined.

It's a question.

1. ASK DISRUPTIVE QUESTIONS

Don't start with the answers, start with the questions.

In the Gospels he asked 307 different questions.

Who are you looking for?

What do you want?

Why do you call me good?

Do you want to be well?

Why do you think evil thoughts in your heart?

Who is without sin?

Which is easier to say, you're forgiven or get up and walk?

Is your heart resistant to what God is doing?

Who do you say that I am?

Who was a good neighbor?

Why does this generation look for a sign?

Why do you call me Lord but don't do what I say?

Can you drink from the cup I drink from?

Will you give up your life for me?

American culture: addiction, comparison, insecurity and depression.

So distracted by the cares of busy life and louder voices.

DISRUPTIVE THOUGHTS.. to those blind to their spiritual need.

1. Is there a family that can offer belonging deeper than loneliness?
2. What type of Person / Leader / Spouse / Parent are you meant to be?
3. Are you becoming the Person / Leader / Spouse / Parent you are meant to be?
4. What are your guiding beliefs?
5. Have you accepted an unsatisfying life?
6. What if you stopped fighting your battles alone and trying to do it all on your own?
7. What if joy is not something you can't earn or achieve?
8. What has made the biggest impact on your spiritual life?
9. Which values are the most important to teach your kids? How are you teaching them?
10. Are you living purposefully in this season of your life?

Difference between DISRUPTIVE INNOVATION and SUSTAINING INNOVATION.

1995 Harvard Business Review published an article titled "Disruptive Technologies: Catching the Wave," by Joseph L. Bower and Clayton M. Christensen.

"Whereas sustaining innovation seeks to appease shareholders, maintain customer satisfaction, loyalty, and market share through incremental product improvement, "Disruptive

innovation, describes a process by which a product or service takes root at the bottom of the market and then relentlessly moves up market, eventually displacing established competitors.”

2. CREATE DISRUPTIVE CULTURE

To Disrupt your community you may first need to disrupt your church, especially if the transformative Word isn't be preached from the pulpit and accessed through a transformation process.

Here are a few other things that are signs you need to break out fo the mold your church is in before you start attacking the enemy through organized efforts to win the community.

10 Scenarios Suggesting a Church Needs Disruption | DeYmaz, Mark. Disruption

1. A disconnect exists between past & present effectiveness:

People speak more about the church's historical contributions than its future potential.

2. Drop in attendance has led to a loss of stability, capacity, and direction in a congregation once known for its size and significance.

3. Leaders with large salary have not had a substantive change in role, responsibilities, or results.

4. Key decision-makers consistently rebuff “what ifs” and kill off emerging proposals and optimism energy, optimism in favor of maintaining status quo.

5. Paid leaders see volunteer leaders as more of a personal threat than a blessing to the church.

6. An environment of high control and poor communication has the staff confused and complaining.

7. A senior pastor is prone to make excuses or to blame others for personal shortcomings or lack of success within the church rather than accept constructive criticism meant to help him or her.

8. A risk-averse board is set in a mind-set of scarcity, rather than abundance, unwilling to fund new initiatives or plan for growth.

9. The community has changed, but the church is determined to remain the same in terms of race, class, or culture.

10. A revolving door exists through which both paid and lay leaders.

TEACH ON MISSION

“Unless we are reading the Word missionally we are reading it incorrectly.” - Christopher Wright

In a Barna study, for every 1 Believer that said that the Church exists to seek and save the lost, 3 Believers said the Church exists to meet me and my families needs. There is a connection here to the # of Christians living joyless lives. And the amount of Christians who think Church is about them. When we embrace our identity-in-mission, we will find that we have a lifestyle-of-rejoicing.

Believers role as instruments of God's MISSION.

Romans 9 = Paul pleads with Israel to understand their role as God's servant nation before the world.

Romans 9-11 suggests that the confusion, tension and conflict that divide them from one another can only be overcome if they join hearts and hands in a mission to the Gentiles among whom they live” (Lavierde, Thompson, 241).

These same words can indict us today - Those who have received revelation. Those who have spiritual privilege.

We must reconcile our attitude and behavior of our modern American churches with the truth of God's Mission, pointing only to the need for a new missional fervor to present to the world an indistractable faith with an unsilencable witness.

We must consider Isaiah's attitude toward Israel. His "fervent desire for Israel is that they will respond to God's intervention on her behalf and carry out her role as God's servant nation before the world" (Grisanti, 61).

There is a redemption-joy that cannot be divorced from true faith. Sullivan says, "Paul combines both the past and the future together in Isaiah to express a typic-prophetic eschatological new-exodus redemption." The type of deliverance and restoration that Moses and Miriam sang about, and that Israel has celebrated in feasts until this day. **The exodus deliverance we have access to now in the resurrection of our souls must not be buried but shown as the hallmark feature to an American culture entrenched in addiction, comparison, insecurity and depression.** We must make it our effort to impact the world with clear faith expressions as simple as the message of cross, and as powerful as the deliverance, redemption and restoration that the cross brings.

3. USE DISRUPTIVE STRATEGY

Outreach Risks involve sacrifice...

Time, Money, Failure, Reputation (may not look smooth, clean and cool),

ARE YOU WILLING TO BE A PAWN?

Is your church willing to water.

Is your church willing to plant.

What if you don't reap attendance, popularity,

What if you make people discomfort, offense and get canceled.

Hebrews 10:38-39

38 And, "But my righteous[g] one will live by faith. And I take no pleasure in the one who shrinks back." [h]

39 But we do not belong to those who shrink back and are destroyed, but to those who have faith and are saved.

***Use New Mediums**

***Meet a Local Need in a Tangible, United Way**

***Get church hobbies out of the lobby.**

What moves are you making right now that would make a difference to those outside your church attenders? If the answer is NONE - Then take these steps.

1. Pray.
2. Get a vision - if you're the senior leader, you need something in your heart. Go drive around your community, do some prayer walks until God speaks to you.
3. Onboard an outreach leader or consultant.
4. Mobilize your people into a united serve effort, all church serve day, Love Week or Reach Week.
5. Build Partnerships... i.e. Summer Sprint.

LINKS

10 Ways to Reach your Rural Community - <https://converge.org/article/10-ways-to-reach-your-rural-community>

Questions Jesus asked - <https://www.fcceugene.org/documents/AdultEd/>

Questions%20Jesus%20Asked.pdf

Post Covid Ministry - <https://careynieuwhof.com/5-critical-mistakes-church-leaders-should-avoid-in-the-post-covid-world/>

Disruption Book - <https://www.amazon.com/Disruption-Repurposing-Church-Redeem-Community/dp/071808909X>

The Mission of God Book - https://www.amazon.com/Mission-God-Unlocking-Bibles-Narrative/dp/0830852131/ref=sr_1_2?crid=3OB8M2XXL8PT2&dchild=1&keywords=christopher+wright+the+mission+of+god&qid=1620100797&s=books&sprefix=Christopher+wright+the+mis%2Cstripbooks%2C129&sr=1-2

Transforming Mission Book - https://www.amazon.com/Transforming-Mission-Paradigm-Theology-Missiology/dp/1570759480/ref=sr_1_1?crid=2JD29LFGN1PQ4&dchild=1&keywords=david+bosch+transforming+mission&qid=1620100928&sprefix=David+Bosch+t%2Cstripbooks%2C132&sr=8-1

Churchless Book - <https://www.barna.com/churchless/>