

## **CASE STUDY 1: Spiritual Growth in the Church**

You are a Church Consultant and have been called into a church to help them figure out why people don't seem to be connected to the church and don't seem to be growing spiritually. The church has Sunday morning services that do attract a lot of people. The music and the message by the Senior Pastor along with the other elements of the service are done with a high degree of excellence and seem to bring a lot of people into the church. The problems start when it comes to getting those new people connected to the church. The church has a weekly Adult Fellowship between services where people are able to choose between many classes on things from books of the Bible studies to studies on marriage and parenting. They also offer small groups for those who want to attend them as a way to try to close the backdoor of their church.

You interview the Pastoral Team and Elders who say that they have everything a person could want to grow spiritually from Sunday School to a bookstore that is loaded with books on spiritual growth. They tell you they are passionate about spiritual growth and have a vision to "reach the valley for Jesus Christ" and a mission "To create fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ" which to them includes a passion for Christ, a passion for others, and a passion for the world. They tell you they are very committed to the vision and mission of the church but just can't seem to figure out if people are really living out that vision and find that most people attend for a while and eventually either leave or just attend on the weekends. Your casual interviews with people from the church shows that they really can't articulate what the church's goals are but they each are still at the church because different programs or relationships have helped them.

1. Take a minute to introduce yourself. Include where you are from, what church you serve at and what you do at your church.
2. Based on what you have read, why do you think this church is struggling with the issue of spiritual growth?
3. How could they begin to help members to see and engage their vision and mission?