

## **LEADERSHIP LESSON # 62: DISCOVERING THE UNCHURCHED**

OUTLINE BY MICHAEL DAVIS

The Great Commission commands us to “go into all the world and make disciples.” The process of making disciples starts with discovering people who are not **disciples**. The question is, “How do I find the unchurched in my neighborhood?”

The unchurched can be found in many kinds of people **groups**. Identify these groups in your community and you will most likely discover people who are unchurched.

***Group 1: Families with members who have special needs.*** Most churches do not provide ministry to persons with special needs. Therefore, family members are not able to participate in church activities, including Sunday School and worship. Contact organizations for autistic, mentally challenged, or physically challenged people. Most will be thrilled to know your church is interested in reaching out to their members. Once you get the list, plan events that are attractive to each group.

***Group 2: Families who have never had a relationship with a church.*** These people are fairly easy to identify! Assign a couple of your members of your Sunday School to drive around through local neighborhoods to identify homes where children are playing in the front yard, dad is washing the car, or mom is working in flowerbeds. Chances are, this is a weekly pattern for the family.

***Group 3: New families in the community.*** Every community has these folks! They are easy to identify. Families who move from out-of-town are good prospects for your church. New movers are interested in connecting with people in their new community. They usually are interested in learning where to buy groceries, where to shop for clothes, how to get involved in sports and where to meet good friends. Encourage your Sunday School members to keep an eye out for moving vans and “sold” signs. Have these “noisy” people report their findings to the church office. You can then send greeters, with goodies in hand, to the identified homes. Provide information about your church with the goodies.

***Group 4: Friends of new Christians.*** Just because a person gets saved, baptized and joins a church does not mean they lose all their old friends. Chances are, most of their old friends are unchurched. If you offer a new member class, include a time for soliciting information about friends, family members and co-workers of your new members. Remember to collect name, address, phone number, age, email address and relationship to the member. You now have a list of great prospects with connections to your church!

***Group 5: Friends of Sunday School class members.*** The old “Who Do Card” might be a thing of the past, but the concept is still valid! Take time each month to ask your class members to share the names of people they know who are not involved in church or Bible study at any church. Remember to get name, address, phone number, age, email address, and relationship to the class member.

***Group 6: Families who have lost loved ones.*** Read the obituaries every day! Identify families in your community who have lost a loved one. Pay special attention to those who do not identify a church or Christian connection in the story. Make contact with these families after the funeral. Offer a special meal or to help with other personal needs as a result of the death. During a home visit, gather information about the spiritual needs of the family.

***Be creative! Always be open to new ways to identify the unchurched!***

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