

**Pastors Meeting**  
**May 6, 2024**  
**Worship and Prayer**

**Pastor Mark**  
**Pause and Discern**

1 Chronicles 12:32 – the Sons of Issachar

- “They understood the times and knew what to do...”  
1 Chronicles 12:32 NIV

Where in your life do you need to intergrade the pause and discern...

**Spiritually**

- The Father gives us the ability to achieve his plans when we pause and discern what he is doing in this season. This can be personal or local.
- it requires more than just a prayer of revelation. It requires research into what’s happening internally, locally, nationally, or worldwide.

**What are we living in....**

People who fear the future become...

- hyper defensive
- survivor mentality
- they withdraw.

We are not to live like that... We live in a moment of great opportunity with great challenges....

*Surveys show us that 80% are more willing to engage in spiritual conversations post covid than they were pre covid...*

41% of Americans attend church monthly. Not weekly

57% of Americans hardly go to church – The language of deconstruction. Only 3% have done the “deconstruction” – a slim but vocal minority.

39% of millennials attending church post-pandemic. Huge surge from 21% pre-pandemic attendance. (WHOOOP)

45% of non-white millennials go to church.

16% of Boomers haven’t come back to church post-pandemic.

STATS TELL US THINGS WE NEED TO LISTEN TO

**WHAT IS HAPPENING BEHIND THE STATS?**

Think about the transition of how easy it was to find knowledge from 30-40 years ago to now...

- you had to work to gain knowledge... now you can get it whenever or wherever...

**Community**

- It’s at a premium now...
- The younger generation has isolated and deprived themselves and that is why they are coming... they want community!!!
- Community drives people back not to know more. There is no fee.
- The church is at the place to meet the needs of the community than ever before.

**What action steps can happen?**

- 36% of non-religious exist in America... and they aren’t anti-Christian... they are one of the most open groups because they are looking for something!

“We live in a moment of great spiritual openness...”

HOW GOOD ARE WE AT MAKING SURE SOMEONE FEELS LIKE THEY BELONG IN THE COMMUNITY

- The relief people are looking for is community... and the church should be the one to catch that need and then nurture the spiritual need.

Are we discerning this information...

This could be the greatest opportunity for a great harvest and to be fishers of men.

“As we discern the moment with the huge need of community, how are we setting our nets up to bring in the disconnected, lonely, and isolated people?”

- Listen... listen to what they need and that's Jesus.
- If community is the big need..., what are you doing to foster it?
- Is our church a lecture hall or is it a community and a place to be and meet?

### **The Challenge:**

Open your eyes... there are a lot of open people... Don't neglect the people with no affiliation... bring them in, love them, and connect with them.

### **Action steps**

Have a meeting with your leadership team to define the moment...

- Build wholistic small groups.
  - o Intimate community
  - o Practical help
  - o Intentional discipleship
- This summer... “need oriented evangelism.”
  - o Have one clear ministry that meets the needs of the community but also shares the Gospel.
  - o Make connections so that people can serve alongside with Christians.
- Loving Relationships
  - o Measure it by saying if they were loving relationships if their members were getting together without the church's help.
  - o If that's not happening... how can we make it happen?

### **Announcements**

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