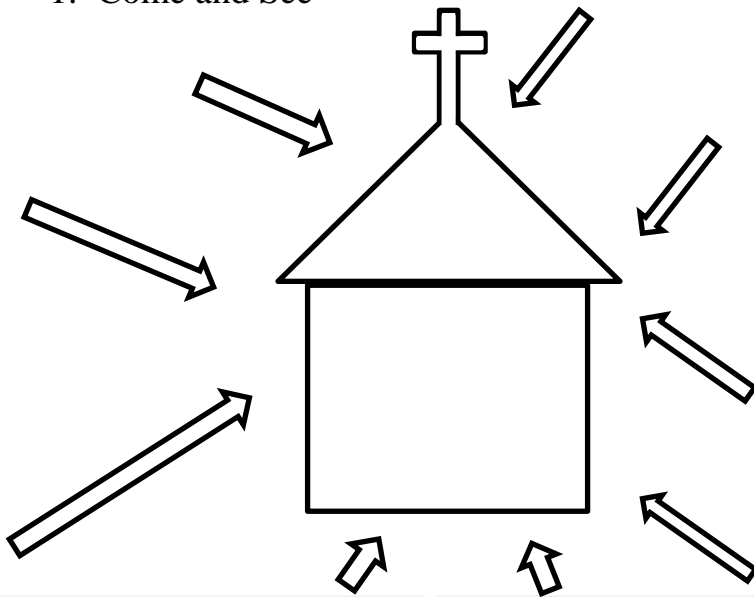


Two Church Models:

1. Come and See



Characteristics:

1. Most resources (time, money, energy) are poured into getting people to attend the church service.
2. Participation as part of the church means making the Sunday morning experience better.

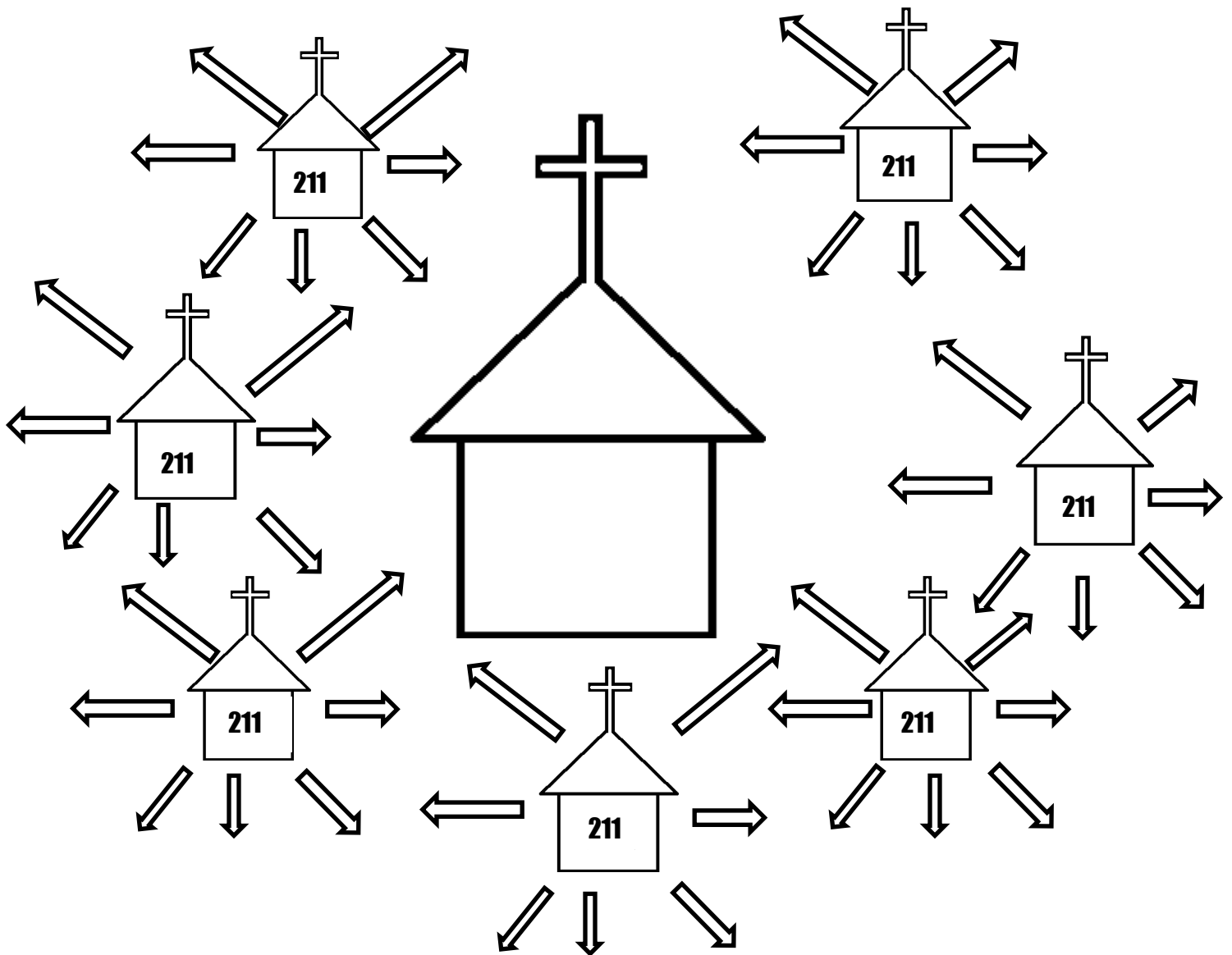
Strengths:

1. Progress is easily judged by evaluating the church service.
2. Church resources are not spread too thin, but can instead be focused on one production.

Weaknesses:

1. Encourages and affirms pew warming.
2. Only reaches people who are willing to attend a worship service.
3. Only reaches people who are free to come during designated service times.
4. Success can easily become dependent upon resources.
5. Members are treated as consumers rather than missionaries.
6. Lack of discipleship strategy.
7. Little continuity between Sunday and the rest of the week.
8. Church becomes performance/observation.
9. No direct mechanism for meeting congregational needs.

2. Go and Seek



Characteristics:

1. Sunday morning service is still maintained, but is not primary.
2. Individual small groups are missional communities that have the dual mission of reaching out to those around them and of nourishing the fellowship of believers.
3. Small groups are designed to be self-replicating under the primary leadership of the church.

Go and Seek (continued)

Weaknesses:

1. Requires weekly commitment outside of Sunday for everyone involved.
2. Small groups have difficulty addressing deep sin issues.

Strengths:

The Go and Seek model addresses all of the weaknesses inherent in the Come and See model:

1. Encourages people towards involvement beyond Sunday.
2. Enables the church to reach individuals who are not ready to attend a corporate worship service.
3. Enables the church to reach individuals who cannot come on a Sunday morning.
4. Churches do not need vast resources to implement this strategy well.
5. Church members take ownership of the overall mission of the church to make disciples.
6. Participation in small groups is an essential part of the church discipleship strategy.
7. Material learned on Sunday can be reinforced during the week; church members can reorient themselves in a spiritual community in the middle of the week.
8. Involvement in church extends far beyond observance.
9. Groups can address the needs of individuals.

A Plan for Implementing a Go and Seek Strategy
Through Small Groups at New Beginnings

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved” (Acts 2:42–47).

We exist as a church to build God’s kingdom. We exist to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

We build God’s kingdom by telling people about Jesus and building one another up in our walks with him. It’s not about bringing people to church; it’s about bringing people to Jesus.

Why we need small groups: Discipleship and evangelism

Discipleship: Sunday morning corporate worship is an excellent, important, and exciting time to worship the Lord, hear his word, and fellowship with one another. Small groups, however, are more interactive, provide a context in which to pray together for one another, provide some degree of accountability to one another, and are where we discuss how to follow Jesus with other believers.

Evangelism: The Sunday morning worship service is a front door into our church. Small groups are side doors (although not the only ones). They are places in which real people can come into our homes to meet real Christians who are walking with Jesus, and who take their walks with Christ seriously enough to refocus together midweek, rather than treating Sunday mornings like a once-a-week spiritual checklist.

211 Groups

- A 211 Group is a small group of between 6 and 10 people (ideally) who meet four times a month: Twice to study, once to party, and once to serve.

Study: The group can study any Scripture portion, book, or topic it wants. Focus is on group participation, fellowship, and prayer.

Party: The group gathers to do something fun, such as a barbeque, potluck, sleigh riding, bowling, miniature golf, or getting tattoos (☺). Most highly recommended are food activities, since this optimizes conversation and interaction.

Serve: The group determines a need and meets it. This may be recurring, such as serving at a homeless shelter, or it may be something different every month, like raking seniors' leaves or shoveling driveways.

- 211 Groups are both discipleship and outreach oriented.

Discipleship: Groups provide a time of midweek fellowship, corporate prayer, and spiritual renewal for everyone who attends. They are places where we can grow as we were intended to— alongside other believers. We are by our nature communal beings, and the Bible repeatedly affirms the necessity of our brothers and sisters in our own walks with the Lord, as we each possess unique gifts and abilities that we have been given to build up one another (Rom 1:11–12; 1 Cor 14:12, 26; Col 2:1–2; Eph 4:11–14; 1 Thess 4:18; 5:11, 14; Heb 3:13; 10:25). They are also places where we can care for one another and for those around us through service.

Outreach: Group members are encouraged to invite friends to the groups, especially to the party and serve meetings. From an outreach perspective, this format has two advantages:

1. It enables group members to form friendships and relationships with those who are invited, which often can

prepare people's hearts for hearing and responding to the gospel.

2. It increases the likelihood that people will want to come and check out the small groups, since serving the needy and attending a party are often more interesting to people who do not think regularly about spiritual matters. While it is certainly okay to invite people to the study meetings, people are more likely to find the party and serve meetings more appealing at first.
- 211 Groups are multiplication oriented. Each leader is encouraged to identify future leaders in their group and help them to grow in ways that will equip them to one day lead their own 211 group.