



January 12, 2020

“When Jesus saw the crowd, he had compassion on them”

Matthew 9:36

I. Seeing the Situation – 5 trends in America going into 2020

- A. 50% churched – 18% attend regularly
- B. Distrust of authority and institutions – brand loyalty low
- C. The internet, video gaming, and smartphones have disconnected people
- D. There is a rise in interest in spirituality – we are living in a “post-Christian” mindset
- E. There is still respect for genuine Christianity

II. Seeing the Need for Prayer Experience and Education

- A. Prayer is a measure of a person’s spiritual connection with God (good gauge of spiritual fulfillment)
- B. 94% say that they pray
- C. 82% prayer silently and alone – only 2% pray with others or in church
- D. Our passion for prayer and belief in prayer power is a desperate need for our community today!

III. Seeing the Need for Bible Authority and Instruction

- A. The Bible is the foundation of all truth and the root of true faith in God (good gauge of spiritual wisdom)
- B. Respect of and interest in the Bible remains at a high level (66% express curiosity)
- C. About 50% of adults “use” the Bible in their lives (daily 14%)
- D. Online usage can lead to confusion and misinformation
- E. Our passion for the Word of God as our authority and our guide for spiritual wisdom is a desperate need of our community today!

IV. Setting the Strategy for 2020

- A. Continue to develop our prayer ministries and practices
- B. Provide public opportunities for people to experience prayer and grow in prayer education
- C. Get back to a Biblical emphasis in all groups, classes, and events
- D. Further emphasize daily prayer and study for us and other
- E. Get back to Bible study many times a week for people to learn how to study and how to pray with others.