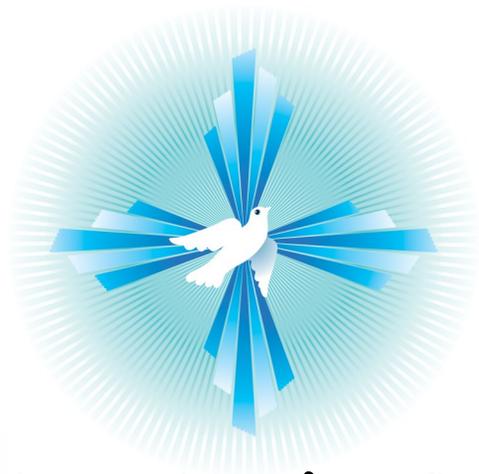


# Unleashing the Spirit's Power: How Spiritual Vitality Affects Numerical Growth



Instructor's Guide



Church Renewal Resource  
Evangelism Ministries USA/Canada Region  
Church of the Nazarene

# Acknowledgments

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Evangelism Ministries

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# Preparation Checklist

**The following information will help you prepare to instruct this module.**

- ◇ Review the material and make notes of specific areas for special emphasis.
- ◇ Check to ensure the following materials are available:
  - ◇ PowerPoint presentations
  - ◇ Participant booklet (copy as needed)
- ◇ Gather the following materials:
  - ◇ Pens and/or pencils
  - ◇ Other material you want to use
- ◇ Make copies of the following material (one for each participant):
  - ◇ Participant booklet
  - ◇ Handouts (if used with this module)
- ◇ Check the classroom for:
  - ◇ Projector
  - ◇ Sufficient number of tables and chairs for the participants
- ⇒ Arrange the room so that each church team sits around an individual table and you have ample room to move among the teams.

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## MODULE AT A GLANCE

The table below identifies each module section, the time allotted for each section, and a brief description of the section's objective. When you are familiar with this module, you may want to teach from this page rather than the detailed information.

<b>Section</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Page</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>
I. Module Introduction	5 Minutes	5	Introduce module, objectives, and outline
II. Lecture	25 Minutes	6	To free the spirit's dynamics to influence outsiders, the facilitator presents information about believers' behavior and how it attracts unbelievers and how spirituality meets a basic human need for God.
III. Small Group Exercise	15 Minutes	8	Participants work in teams to identify those who have brought others to Christ and the church and describe what factors may keep people from attending or returning to their church.
IV. Discussion	5 Minutes	9	<p>Participants share thoughts about the information presented and insights about how the information will assist in their leadership.</p> <p>Two possible questions to start the discussion in addition to the questions answered during the exercise are:</p> <p>What new ideas or thoughts did God reveal to you?</p> <p>What new techniques will you begin using as you think about others in your church?</p>
V. Action Planning/ Reporting	20 Minutes	9	<p>Participants begin preparing for their homework assignment: From the information discussed in the small group exercise, identify at least three things the student will try to change that will attract outsiders. Have the students record your information on the chart provided.</p> <p>Participants will report the results of the activities at the next workshop.</p>
VI. Module Wrap-up	5 Minutes	10	Close the module with your final comments regarding the topic.

Total Module Time 75 Minutes
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# I. Module Introduction



Notes

(5 Minutes)

Let the participants know the material is theirs to keep and encourage them to take notes. The participant material includes:

- Purpose
- Objectives
- “Fill in the blanks” for the lecture
- Application exercises

## **The purpose of this module is to:**

Free the spirit to influence outsiders through us, the church.

## **The objectives for this module are:**

- Reinforce the importance of a spiritually alive church.
- Place a premium on the love that wins, welcomes, and includes the outsider.
- Invest in befriending and bettering people.

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## II. Lecture

25 Minutes



Notes

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Slide 5

Slide 6

- I. The character of Christians attracts non-Christians
  - A. **VITALITY** attracts.
  - B. Reliance upon God (a living faith) spawns **HOPE** among the needy.
  - C. **INTEGRITY** attracts.
  - D. The Spirit of Jesus in us is **ACCEPTING** (welcoming) of all.
  
- II. The behavior of believers appeals to unbelievers
  - A. Spiritually alive people **SUPPORT** others.
  - B. Spiritual life brings both peace and **PEOPLE** to that peace.
  - C. A maturing church sees **SINNERS** as Christ sees them -- non-judgmentally.
  - D. Celebration **APPEALS**.
  - E. Love lived out in the world is **WINSOME**.
  - F. A spiritual church meets the needs of attendants – **SATISFIED** customers talk favorably.
  
- III. Disciples apprehend the heart of God for the lost
  - A. God is able to **WORK** through open people.
  - B. Spiritual living **MOTIVATES** witnessing which results in converts.
  - C. God keeps His promise of **GROWING** his church through our obedience.
  - D. Prayer generates life-changing **POWER**.
  
- IV. Spirituality meets a basic human need for God.
  - All societies possess gods -- testifying to a human void without God.
  - Just as a people need water for physical existence, so they need God for personal fulfillment.
    - A. When we meet the **SPIRITUAL** needs of people, we will have more people who want an experience and a knowledge of God.

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## II. Lecture



### Notes

- B. Why aren't people **FLOODING** to our churches?
1. There are many **SUBSTITUTES** for spiritual fulfillment, e.g. entertainment, relationships, sexual gratification, clubs.
  2. The church does not know how to **MINISTER** to the world.
  3. The church is **AFRAID** of the world's rebuke.
- C. Unchurched people have a need for **INTERACTION** with God's people.
1. The church that attracts people will view people as **DISCIPLES** -- people in the process of becoming the people of God.
  2. Most people are **WRESTLING** with the daily problems of living and want support in that process.
  3. People are **WARMED** by the people of God as they study life-related issues from the Bible and seek to apply those.
  4. God's people, who are growing spiritually and are open to **PERMITTING** others to grow at their own speed, will draw other people to themselves.
  5. The church, **SERVING** as Jesus' disciples, ministers primarily to unbelievers.
  6. That's why numerical growth should follow spiritual growth, i.e. the **CLOSER** we are to God the more we **CARE** about people.

Slide 7

Slide 8



## II. Lecture



Notes

### Conclusion:

1. Some would object, saying: “Our church is **GROWING** spiritually, but not growing **NUMERICALLY.**”
2. A church should be **PRODUCING** life-changing behavior in people—that very process attracts and those people attract others.
3. A church that is growing spiritually—becoming more like Christ; showing love to people; **REACHING** out to those who need God—should grow numerically.

Slide 9



## III. Small Group

15 Minutes



The small group exercise portion of the module provides an opportunity for the teams to discuss the information presented and how it applies to their church.

*Turn to the Small Group Exercise portion of your participant booklet. Let's take the next 15 minutes to answer questions about your church's spiritual vitality.*

1. Who are the people in your congregation who have brought others to Christ and the church?
  - a. Describe what they are like. (They may not always be considered saintly.)
  - b. Which of their characteristics can people imitate?
2. What factors about your church may keep people from attending or returning?
  - a. What are the negotiable and non-negotiable (i.e. if changed would make your church less than a God- approved body of believers) factors?
  - b. How could you go about making changes (in the negotiable factors) that would attract outsiders?

Slide 10

Remain available during the exercise time to answer questions.

Announce to the group when five minutes remain. Again announce to the group when two minutes remain.

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## IV. Discussion



5 Minutes

The discussion portion of the module provides an opportunity for people to share their thoughts about the lecture and small group exercise.

If you're ahead of schedule, the discussion can go a few extra minutes.

However, it's easy to lose track of time so watch the clock.

Open the floor for discussion. If the group is hesitant to discuss, start with one of the questions they discussed during the exercise.

Notes



## V. Action Planning/Reporting



20 Minutes

This section gives the participants an opportunity to discuss their plans for using this information in future meetings.

Distribute the Level of Love Questionnaire and instructions. The homework assignment for this module is:

1. Ask church members/attendees to complete the Level of Love Questionnaire.
2. Prepare an analysis of the results.
3. From the information discussed in the small group exercise and the results of the questionnaire, identify at least three things you will try to change that will attract the outsider. Record your information on the chart provided.

*Let's take about 20 minutes to discuss how you plan to use this information as a church. In your material you have an Action Planning/Reporting page with your homework assignment. In your teams discuss and document how you will complete this assignment before we meet again. You will probably need to continue this discussion at other times.*

Move among the groups to answer specific questions. Listen for discussions that are not focused on the assignment and guide them completing the questions. Let the groups know when there are five minutes remaining and ask them to begin to conclude their discussions.

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## V. Action Planning/Reporting Cont.



Homework:

1. Complete the Level of Love Questionnaire with your church members/attenders. Prepare an analysis of the results.
2. From the information discussed in the small group exercise and the results of the survey, identify at least three things you will try to change that will attract the outsider. Use the chart to record your information.

Steps to Implement Project/ Plan	Who will do this step?	When will it be done?	What were the Results?	What might you do differently next time?



## VI. Module Wrap-up



This section provides an opportunity to close the module.

- Ask participants to share their thoughts about the module.
- Remind the participants to record their results and be prepared to share the progress at the next session.
- Answer any questions and provide encouragement.