



### ***People Spot Missile: The Genius of the Class***

For a number of years I have been teaching People Spot Principles. One of those core principles is the number of small groups in your church that affects attendance potential. What kind of small groups are there? Sunday School classes, care groups, support groups, task groups, and athletic teams are five kinds of groups. You describe a kind of small group and we can usually fit it into one of those five groups. I recently added a sixth kind of small group to the list. Worship, if it is less than 35 on a regular basis, will act as a small group even though it is a service of worship.

The formula is simple: If your attendance is less than 200 in worship, divide your average attendance by 8; if your attendance is between 201 and 500 in worship, divide your attendance by 10; if your attendance is between 501 and 1,000 in worship, divide your attendance by 12. The answers tell you how many small groups you need to support worship. The reality is quite simple. Add a small group and worship potential increases. Subtract a small group and worship potential decreases.

This is a fact. It sounds goofy and unreasonable but it is true.

Let's take a look at a sample. If a church has an average worship attendance of 80, divide the 80 by 8. That means 10 small groups are required to support that attendance. The formula recognizes that some people are in multiple groups.

When I'm not traveling on assignment, I attend the Eberly's Mill Church of God where my son Jim Moss, Jr. pastors. Several years ago an adult discussion class was begun with Howard Bink as the teacher. He taught Old Testament History and finally we have arrived at the Gospels. The class began with the teacher and two couples. By the time I joined it was averaging 15. Seldom do we have a Sunday now when there is less than 20 in the class.

Howard Bink, our teacher writes: "I also have marveled that our class has blossomed into what it is today. I really believe though, that it's God's doing and he is using all of us as His instruments. I swear that I learn more than those I'm supposed to be teaching. Almost everyone contributes to a greater or lesser degree from week to week."

We pray together. We pray for the various needs the people identify. We pray for the needs of the people in the church. We pray for each other. The prayer time is an essential part of our

time together.

We have fun together. There was recently a pool party for the class at one of the member's homes. Members of the class have fellowship together away from any activities with the class.

The study time has involved reading the Bible and discussing its contents. Sometimes we cover several verses and sometimes a good bit more. The discussion can be lively and interesting. I love the class and hate to miss. My life is blessed because of it.

On a recent Sunday morning I asked, "Do you know what the genius of this class is?" I answered the question. It was obvious. I said, "The genius of this class is that we love and care for each other."

For small groups to be successful there has to be a lot of loving going on. The leader/teacher has to love the people and the people have to love the leader/teacher. The people have to love each other. The people have to appreciate the curriculum. They have to be growing spiritually as a result of the effort. I am so excited to share that I have found such a class and there is a people spot there for me. I pray you can find your people spot too.

What is a people spot? It is a place of belonging. People spots are three dimensional. There is a physical space to sit, a relational space, a chance to know a few people well, and a place where some individual needs are met. People spots reside in small groups. They are not found in worship unless worship is less than 35.

***A Thought: "...The tv program Cheers boasted of being a place where people belonged and were known by name. It was a bar. Where do you really feel like you belong? I pray it is in the church. Nothing is quite as frustrating as being in a church without a sense of belonging." Jim Moss, Sr.***

*I am now available to present "The Role of the Church in the Civil War", "Starting a New Service", "Churches Have Personalities", "People Spots", "Does Your Church Really Care About People?" and "A Christian Perspective on Leadership Skills." "Stewardship and Managing Debt" jm Volumes 1, 2, 3, and 4—"A History of the Civil War as Presented by the Church Advocate!" are now available. It is a history without the varnish of revision.*

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