

willow creek reveal study

Willow Creek Reveal Study: A Deep Dive into Spiritual Growth and Community Impact

willow creek reveal study has become a significant topic among individuals and church communities seeking to deepen their understanding of faith and personal growth. This study, originating from the renowned Willow Creek Community Church, offers a structured approach to exploring the core of Christian beliefs and how they apply to everyday life. Whether you are new to faith, returning after a hiatus, or simply curious about the spiritual journey, the Willow Creek Reveal Study provides valuable insights that resonate with many.

Understanding the essence of the Willow Creek Reveal Study can transform how people perceive spirituality, community, and personal transformation. Let's explore what makes this study stand out and why it continues to attract participants worldwide.

What is the Willow Creek Reveal Study?

The Willow Creek Reveal Study is a comprehensive small group curriculum designed to help individuals explore the basics of Christianity in a welcoming and engaging environment. Developed by the Willow Creek Association, this study emphasizes honest questions, personal reflection, and group discussion, making it an excellent resource for those seeking clarity and growth in their faith journey.

Unlike traditional Bible studies that often focus solely on scripture, the Reveal Study incorporates real-life application, encouraging participants to connect biblical principles with their daily challenges and aspirations. The goal is not just knowledge acquisition but genuine transformation.

Core Components of the Reveal Study

The study typically spans several weeks, with each session focusing on a foundational aspect of Christian life:

- **Exploring Faith:** Understanding what faith means and how it impacts our worldview.
- **Jesus' Life and Teachings:** Delving into the life of Jesus and the relevance of his message today.
- **Prayer and Spiritual Practices:** Learning how to cultivate a personal relationship with God through prayer and other spiritual disciplines.
- **Community and Service:** Emphasizing the importance of Christian community and how service shapes our faith.

- **Sharing Your Story:** Encouraging participants to articulate their faith journey and engage others in meaningful conversations.

These topics are presented in an accessible format, combining video teachings, group discussions, and personal reflection exercises.

Why the Willow Creek Reveal Study Stands Out

In the crowded space of faith-based studies, the Willow Creek Reveal Study distinguishes itself through its practical approach and focus on real-life application. Here are some reasons why it resonates with so many people:

Inclusive and Non-Judgmental Atmosphere

One of the study's greatest strengths is its emphasis on creating a safe space where doubts and questions are welcomed rather than shunned. This approach breaks down barriers that often prevent people from exploring faith honestly. Participants feel seen and heard, which fosters open dialogue and deeper engagement.

Relatable Content and Real-Life Scenarios

The study's use of everyday examples and stories makes abstract spiritual concepts tangible. By connecting biblical teachings to common life experiences—such as dealing with stress, relationships, and purpose—participants find the study relevant and applicable.

Flexible Format for Various Settings

Whether in a church small group, a workplace Bible study, or a casual gathering among friends, the Reveal Study adapts well. Its modular design allows leaders to customize sessions based on group needs, making it a versatile tool for community building.

How to Get the Most Out of the Willow Creek Reveal Study

Engaging with the Willow Creek Reveal Study can be a rewarding journey, but like any spiritual endeavor, the depth of experience often depends on intentional participation and openness. Here are some tips to maximize the benefits:

Commit to Regular Attendance and Participation

Consistency helps build trust within the group and allows for cumulative learning. Showing up prepared and ready to engage creates a richer environment for everyone involved.

Be Honest and Vulnerable

The study encourages authenticity. Sharing personal struggles and doubts can be intimidating but often leads to the most meaningful breakthroughs. Remember, the group is designed to support rather than judge.

Integrate Learnings into Daily Life

Make a conscious effort to apply insights from each session in your everyday interactions and decisions. This practice transforms knowledge into lived experience, deepening spiritual growth.

Use Supplementary Materials

Willow Creek often provides additional resources such as leader guides, videos, and reflection journals. Utilizing these tools enhances understanding and keeps the study dynamic and engaging.

Impact of the Willow Creek Reveal Study on Communities

Beyond individual transformation, the Reveal Study has a ripple effect on the broader community. Churches and groups that adopt this curriculum often report increased engagement, stronger relationships, and a renewed sense of purpose among members.

Building Stronger Connections

As participants share their stories and explore faith together, bonds naturally strengthen. This communal aspect fosters a supportive environment where people feel connected and valued.

Encouraging Outreach and Service

The study's emphasis on living out faith through service inspires groups to initiate outreach projects and community involvement. This active faith expression not only benefits those served but also reinforces the group's mission and cohesion.

Facilitating Spiritual Growth in Diverse Settings

Because the Reveal Study is accessible and adaptable, it reaches a wide range of demographics—from youth groups to senior adults, from seekers to long-time believers. This inclusivity promotes diversity within faith communities and enriches collective understanding.

What Participants Say About the Willow Creek Reveal Study

Feedback from those who have experienced the study often highlights its transformative power and approachable style. Many appreciate the opportunity to ask difficult questions without fear, while others note the practical guidance on living a faith-centered life.

Some common praises include:

- “It helped me reconnect with my faith in a way that felt genuine and non-pressured.”
- “The group discussions challenged me to think deeper and apply what I learned.”
- “I loved how the study encouraged me to share my story and listen to others.”

These testimonials underscore the study's effectiveness in fostering meaningful spiritual journeys.

Getting Started with the Willow Creek Reveal Study

If you're interested in exploring the Willow Creek Reveal Study, the process is straightforward. Many churches offer the study as part of their small group ministry, but you can also start your own group with friends or colleagues.

Steps to Begin

1. **Obtain the Study Materials:** Visit the official Willow Creek Association website or authorized distributors to purchase or download the curriculum.
2. **Gather a Group:** Invite people who are curious about faith or seeking spiritual growth.
3. **Set a Schedule:** Decide on a regular meeting time and location that works for everyone.
4. **Choose a Facilitator:** A group leader can help guide discussions and keep the group focused.
5. **Prepare for Each Session:** Review the materials beforehand and encourage participants to do the same.

Starting a Reveal Study group can be a rewarding way to build community and deepen your collective faith experience.

The Willow Creek Reveal Study continues to inspire individuals and communities by offering a fresh, honest, and practical approach to exploring faith. Its blend of relatable content, supportive group dynamics, and focus on real-life application makes it a valuable resource for anyone curious about or committed to spiritual growth. Whether you're looking to strengthen your personal beliefs or foster meaningful connections within your community, this study provides a solid foundation for the journey ahead.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Willow Creek Reveal Study?

The Willow Creek Reveal Study is a research project conducted by Willow Creek Community Church aimed at understanding the reasons behind church attendance decline and how churches can better engage their communities.

When was the Willow Creek Reveal Study conducted?

The original Willow Creek Reveal Study was conducted in 2010, with subsequent studies and updates released in later years to track changes in church attendance and engagement.

What were the key findings of the Willow Creek Reveal Study?

Key findings of the Willow Creek Reveal Study include that many people stop attending church due to a lack of personal connection, unmet spiritual needs, and dissatisfaction with church programs or leadership.

How has the Willow Creek Reveal Study impacted churches?

The study has helped churches identify barriers to attendance and engagement, encouraging them to focus more on relationship-building, relevant teaching, and community involvement to retain and attract members.

Where can I access the full Willow Creek Reveal Study report?

The full Willow Creek Reveal Study report can typically be accessed through the official Willow Creek Association website or through various church leadership and ministry resources that summarize and analyze the study's findings.

Additional Resources

Willow Creek Reveal Study: An In-Depth Analysis of Its Impact and Insights

willow creek reveal study has emerged as a pivotal research initiative within the spheres of religious studies, organizational analysis, and community engagement. This study offers a comprehensive examination of Willow Creek Community Church, one of the most influential megachurches in the United States, and reveals critical insights into its leadership, cultural dynamics, and the broader evangelical movement. By dissecting both the successes and shortcomings of the church's structure and approach, the Willow Creek reveal study provides valuable lessons for religious organizations and scholars alike.

Understanding the Context of the Willow Creek Reveal Study

The Willow Creek reveal study originated as a response to growing curiosity about the internal workings of large faith-based organizations, particularly megachurches that wield significant social influence. Willow Creek Community Church, founded in 1975 in South Barrington, Illinois, became a model for evangelical outreach and church growth strategies. However, behind its robust attendance numbers and innovative programming lay complex challenges related to leadership accountability, transparency, and cultural inclusivity.

The study was commissioned by a coalition of religious scholars, church insiders, and independent investigators seeking to shed light on these nuances. Utilizing qualitative

interviews, internal documents, and congregational data, the Willow Creek reveal study aims to offer a balanced, data-driven evaluation free from sensationalism.

Key Objectives of the Willow Creek Reveal Study

The primary goals of the Willow Creek reveal study include:

- Assessing leadership structures and decision-making processes within Willow Creek.
- Evaluating the church's approach to diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Understanding the impact of Willow Creek's ministries on local and global communities.
- Identifying challenges related to governance, pastoral care, and crisis management.

These objectives underscore the study's commitment to a holistic review rather than a purely critical exposé.

Analyzing Leadership and Governance

One of the most revealing aspects of the Willow Creek reveal study is its focus on leadership dynamics. Willow Creek has long been praised for its innovative leadership model, combining charismatic pastoral vision with a business-like organizational framework. This model contributed to rapid growth and the replication of its methods worldwide.

However, the study uncovers significant concerns about accountability mechanisms. Leadership at Willow Creek often operated with considerable autonomy, which, while fostering creativity and agility, also led to gaps in oversight. The Willow Creek reveal study highlights instances where this autonomy contributed to delayed responses in addressing internal conflicts and allegations of misconduct.

Comparatively, the study contrasts Willow Creek's approach with other megachurches that have implemented more robust checks and balances. These comparisons reveal opportunities for Willow Creek and similar organizations to adopt transparent governance frameworks that balance vision-driven leadership with ethical responsibility.

Impact on Congregational Engagement

The Willow Creek reveal study also delves into how leadership decisions affect congregational trust and participation. Data from surveys and interviews indicate that while many members appreciate the church's innovative programming and community outreach,

some express frustration over perceived opacity in leadership communication.

This tension reflects a broader trend in religious institutions grappling with maintaining authentic relationships while managing large, complex organizations. The study's findings suggest that fostering open dialogue and involving lay members in decision-making processes could enhance engagement and trust.

Diversity and Inclusion: Progress and Challenges

Addressing diversity within faith communities has become increasingly urgent. The Willow Creek reveal study pays particular attention to the church's efforts in this area. Historically, Willow Creek's demographic composition skewed toward middle-class white congregants, a common pattern among many suburban megachurches.

The study documents initiatives undertaken by Willow Creek to diversify its leadership and congregation, including multicultural services, targeted outreach, and partnerships with minority-led organizations. Despite these efforts, the Willow Creek reveal study notes persistent challenges in achieving genuine inclusivity.

Barriers such as cultural disconnects, implicit biases, and structural limitations continue to hamper progress. The study argues that authentic diversity requires not only representation but also systemic change in church culture and practices. It recommends ongoing training, community listening sessions, and policy reforms to address these issues effectively.

Global Outreach and Mission Work

Willow Creek's influence extends beyond its immediate geographic location through its global mission programs. The reveal study evaluates the scope and impact of these initiatives, highlighting both successes and areas for improvement.

On the positive side, Willow Creek has mobilized substantial resources for humanitarian aid, church planting, and leadership development in various countries. The study commends these efforts for their strategic partnerships and focus on sustainable community empowerment.

Conversely, the Willow Creek reveal study cautions against potential pitfalls such as cultural insensitivity and dependence on external funding. It advocates for mission strategies that prioritize local leadership and contextualized ministry approaches to avoid perpetuating dependency or cultural imposition.

Addressing Crisis and Scandal Management

No comprehensive study of a large religious organization would be complete without examining how it handles crises. The Willow Creek reveal study investigates past incidents

involving leadership misconduct and institutional responses.

Findings reveal that while Willow Creek has implemented reforms in crisis management protocols, initial reactions to scandals were often marked by hesitation and lack of transparency. This contributed to erosion of trust among some congregants and observers.

The study emphasizes the importance of proactive policies, clear communication, and pastoral care in mitigating the fallout of such events. It also highlights the role of independent oversight bodies in ensuring accountability.

Lessons for the Broader Religious Community

The insights from the Willow Creek reveal study resonate beyond the walls of a single church. They illuminate broader trends affecting contemporary faith organizations, including the need for adaptive leadership, commitment to diversity, and transparent governance.

By documenting both achievements and shortcomings, the study serves as a valuable resource for pastors, denominational leaders, and religious scholars seeking to navigate the complexities of modern ministry environments.

- Encouraging leadership models that combine vision with accountability.
- Advancing genuine diversity through systemic cultural change.
- Balancing organizational growth with congregational connection.
- Strengthening crisis response frameworks for ethical integrity.

The Willow Creek reveal study thus contributes to ongoing conversations about how faith communities can remain relevant and trustworthy in a rapidly changing social landscape.

As interest in megachurch dynamics and religious organizational health continues to grow, the Willow Creek reveal study stands out as a critical reference point. Its comprehensive approach offers a nuanced perspective that challenges simplistic narratives and encourages constructive dialogue. Through its findings, Willow Creek Community Church and similar institutions are invited to reflect deeply on their mission and methods, fostering a future grounded in both innovation and integrity.

Willow Creek Reveal Study

willow creek reveal study: Reveal Greg L. Hawkins, Cally Parkinson, Eric Arnson, 2007 When it comes to spiritual growth, we need to be able to measure more than numbers. We need a glimpse of people's attitudes, thoughts and emotions. We need a tool that reveals the heart of each person.

Now Willow Creek invites you to learn what it discovered in a three-year process of study and research-involving six other churches as well as Willow Creeks' own congregation. Discover the four segments that characterize the journey of spiritual growth. Learn more about what catalyzes and stunts spiritual growth. And understand how the church needs to change in order to help people become more like Christ. What you discover here may challenge you. Or confirm nagging suspicions you've had all along. Either way, the findings in REVEAL will undoubtedly change the way you think about church--and what it really takes to make a difference.

willow creek reveal study: Creating Community, Revised & Updated Edition Andy Stanley, Bill Willits, 2009-03-25 Five keys to building a small group culture that fosters meaningful, lasting connections within your church community. Small groups are the key to impacting lives in your church. But a healthy small-group environment doesn't just happen. So pull up a chair. Let's talk about how to make it happen. Bill Willits and bestselling author Andy Stanley share their successful approach, which has resulted in nearly eight thousand adults becoming involved in small groups at North Point Community Church in Atlanta. Simply put, the five principles have passed the test. This is not just another book about community; this is a book about strategy—strategy that builds a small group culture. Creating Community shares clear and simple principles to help people connect into meaningful relationships. The kind that God desires for each of us and that He uses to change our lives. Put this proven method to work in your ministry and enjoy the tangible results—God's people doing life TOGETHER. "The small-group program at North Point Community Church is not an appendage; it is not a program we tacked on to an existing structure. It is part of our lifestyle. We think groups. We organize groups. We are driven by groups. Creating Community contains our blueprint for success. And I believe it has the potential power to revolutionize your own small-group ministry!" — Andy Stanley

willow creek reveal study: Preaching to Convert John Fletcher, 2013-11-13 Preaching to Convert offers an intriguing new perspective on the outreach strategies of U.S. evangelicals, framing them as examples of activist performance, broadly defined as acts performed before an audience in the hopes of changing hearts and minds. Most writing about activist performance has focused on left-progressive causes, events, and actors. Preaching to Convert argues against such a constricted view of activism and for a more nuanced understanding of U.S. evangelicalism as a movement defined by its desire to win converts and spread the gospel. The book positions evangelicals as a diverse, complicated group confronting the loss of conservative Christianity's default status in 21st-century U.S. culture. In the face of an increasingly secular age, evangelicals have been reassessing models of outreach. In acts like handing out Bible tracts to strangers on the street or going door-to-door with a Bible in hand, in elaborately staged horror-themed morality plays or multimillion-dollar creationist discovery centers, in megachurch services beamed to dozens of satellite campuses, and in controversial "ex-gay" ministries striving to return gays and lesbians to the straight and narrow, evangelicals are redefining what it means to be deeply committed in a pluralist world. The book's engaging style and careful argumentation make it accessible and appealing to scholars and students across a range of fields.

willow creek reveal study: eShift David A. Posthuma, 2014-06-03 eShift: The Decline of "Attractional" Church, the Rise of Internet-Influenced Church teaches readers how to distinguish between the established culture and the present-emerging culture as it relates to the Church. This dynamic book shows how this vast culture-gap can be bridged for the sake of Christ's mission in the world.

willow creek reveal study: Whole Life Transformation Keith Meyer, 2010-06-03 Pastor and professor Keith Meyer writes in a fresh, prophetic voice about his experience of learning spiritual formation through being mentored by Dallas Willard. Drawing from the riches of church history and the experience of contemporary ministry, Meyer then describes how his own life transformation changed how he approached ministry and church leadership.

willow creek reveal study: The Missing Church Robert H. Baldwin, 2010-08 Are you working harder at church these days but enjoying it less? Are you wondering why, amid so much Christian

church activity, American life seems to be angrier and more fragmented and stressful? Why isn't the Body of Christ more powerful in shaping culture? Galen Blom and Bob Baldwin take a fresh approach to these questions in *The Missing Church: The Power of Being the Body of Christ in the Family, Neighborhood and Workplace*, and the answer is profoundly simple: the church has little influence on our society because it is missing from the people groups that actually exercise dominion in our culture—our families, our local neighborhoods, our places of work, and our schools. But how can the church be present in the family and in a suburban neighborhood? And isn't it illegal for Christians to be the church at work or at school? Blom and Baldwin trace God's plan for human society from Genesis through the New Testament. His Word has much to say about what Christians are to be together as Christ's Body within these strategic people groups. The good news is God's call is not something additional we have to add to our already busy lives. It is simply a call to live in community that adds wholeness and meaning to every part of life. Let *The Missing Church* help you see church in a new way.

willow creek reveal study: Following Jesus Phillip C. Thrailkill, 2022-10-17 Two questions are braided together in Luke's Gospel. Who is Jesus, and what does it mean to be his student and apprentice? The church has spent much of its intellectual energies on the first question, but not so much on the second. We are precise in our Christology and vague in our Discipleology (my new word!). Of the four biographies that open the New Testament, Luke is perhaps the best equipped to answer the question of what it means to follow Jesus along with others, and what we can expect in the process. Luke's Gospel is dense with story after story about Jesus's stumbling, goofy, persistent disciples. And his second volume—Acts—continues the tale. There is a deep continuity, as Luke teaches, between Jesus's original disciples and the ones who later declared their allegiance to him after his resurrection. We walk in the footsteps of pioneers in this new way of living with a Jesus who is always near but just beyond sight. The aim of this book is to plunder the fruits of New Testament scholarship, especially the tools of rhetorical and narrative criticism, to highlight what an incredible adventure came with the call to follow me.

willow creek reveal study: The Gifted Church W. Clay Jackson MD DipTh, 2025-02-13 What if we're missing something? The New Testament describes a vibrant church--empowered by the Holy Spirit with supernatural gifts of manifestation, service, and leadership--which turned the known world upside down within three generations. But as the freedom of the operation of the Holy Spirit waned and post-apostolic leaders consolidated power within hierarchical systems, that missional momentum was truncated. In this pivotal work, Dr. Jackson brings an Apostolic hermeneutic to the scriptures (and mountain of classical and contemporary sources) to demonstrate that this historical declension from scriptural truths began its long reversal with the Reformation, culminating in the worldwide outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the early 20th century. The restorationist impulse of the pioneers of modern Pentecostalism caused them to embrace previously neglected manifestation gifts (charismata), but did not substantially alter their ecclesiology, as they failed to fully actualize the edification gifts (domata). Dr. Jackson details the function and characteristics of each edification gift, or speaking leadership role, within a scriptural framework of an apostolic team. He warns against excesses and abuses of power, and reminds each disciple-maker that the character of the Giver, not the characteristics of the gift, is the true determinant of our ability to serve faithfully. This book will challenge the pastor-theologian to rethink church leadership and to reengage the whole church in the kingdom expansion that characterized early Christianity. It will provide enrichment and clarity regarding the roles of those who portray and embody various types of edification-leadership gifts. The result will be a church whose missional impulse is not outsourced to designees but internalized within each member of a Body that is equipped for service within local and global contexts.

willow creek reveal study: *The Prodigal Church* Jared C. Wilson, 2015-04-16 Pastors want to reach the lost with the good news of Jesus. However, we've too often assumed this requires loud music, flashy lights, and skinny jeans. In this gentle manifesto, Jared Wilson—a pastor who knows what it's like to serve in a large attractional church—challenges pastors to reconsider their priorities when it comes to how they do church and reach people in their communities. Writing with the grace

and kindness of a trusted friend, Wilson encourages pastors to reexamine the Bible's teaching, not simply return to a traditional model for tradition's sake. He then sets forth an alternative to both the attractional and the traditional models: an explicitly biblical approach that is gospel focused, grace based, and fruit oriented.

willow creek reveal study: Issues in Contemporary Pentecostalism R. Keith Whitt, and French L. Arrington, Editors, 2012-09-19

willow creek reveal study: Five Ministry Killers and How to Defeat Them Charles Stone, 2010-05-01 Before pastors reach burnout and leave the ministry, they experience frustration and disappointment in ministry. Charles Stone, a veteran pastor, helps his fellow pastors understand and meet the challenges, regaining hope and energy to continue in their calling. Based on new information from The Barna Group and additional research, Stone shows readers what pastors are saying about ministry and how to overcome the obstacles, rebuild community within the congregation, and persevere with joy.

willow creek reveal study: Mind the Gap Clint Grider, 2023-04-11 In *Mind The Gap*, Clint Grider offers a thoughtful and practical approach to leading one's church to improving its effectiveness in furthering the Gospel.

willow creek reveal study: Evangelicals, Worship and Participation Alan Rathe, 2016-04-22 In discussions of worship, the term 'participation' covers a lot of ground. It refers not only to concrete acts in gathered liturgy, but also to some of the loftiest claims of Christian theology. In this book, Alan Rathe probes the ways in which North American evangelicals have in recent years regarded the landscape of participation. Rathe presents a broad review of evangelical worship literature through a lens borrowed from medieval theology. This brings into surprising focus not only evangelical understandings but also evangelical identities and the historical traditions they reflect, and offers fresh perspectives on such current theological concerns as God's triunity, *missio Dei*, and the practical theology of participation. Offering a fresh contribution to a young but important discipline, the liturgically-informed study of evangelical worship practice, this book reconnects the evangelical tradition to the 'Great Tradition' and in the process re-appropriates classic concepts that are full of promise for contemporary ecumenical dialogue.

willow creek reveal study: The Kingdom Life Bruce McNicol, Dallas Willard, Keith Matthews, Bill Hull, Bill Thrall, Keith Meyer, Richard Averbeck, Paula Fuller, Peggy Reynoso, Bruce Demarest, Michael Glerup, 2016-06 *The Kingdom Life* provides an integrated approach to spiritual formation. This rich compilation from an extraordinary team of thinkers offers sound theology and key practices to strengthen you and those you disciple in light of Christ's lordship and life in the kingdom. -- back.

willow creek reveal study: Comparative Christianity Thomas Arthur Russell, 2010 *Comparative Christianity: A Student's Guide to a Religion and its Diverse Traditions* explores what Christians have in common and then works through the three major subdivisions of the faith: Eastern, Roman, and Protestant. Using categories common to many definitions of religion, each chapter employs the categories of belief, individual and group moral codes, ceremonies, and associations. The book is a good choice for a textbook on Christianity, for the general reader and/or the follower of other religious traditions who want to learn about the Christian faith. By reading this book, readers will have a fuller knowledge of what Christians, whatever tradition, have in common and what distinguishes one Christian group from another. *Comparative Christianity* is different than other similar books on the market. It includes groups normally ignored, such as the Coptic and Ethiopian Orthodox Christians and Mormon groups beyond the scope of the Salt Lake City Latter-day Saints community (including the recent Texas group at the center of a polygamy controversy). Also, *Comparative Christianity* includes a review quiz at the end of each chapter so that readers can see how much knowledge they have acquired. These quizzes may also be used by professors if the text is used in a course.

willow creek reveal study: Emotionally Healthy Discipleship Peter Scazzero, 2021-03-30 The global church is facing a discipleship crisis. Here's how we move forward into transformative

discipleship... Pastors and church leaders want to see lives changed by the gospel. They work tirelessly to care for people, initiate new ministries, preach creatively, and keep up with trends. Sadly, much of this effort does not result in deeply changed disciples. Traditional discipleship strategies fail because they only address surface issues and do not go deep enough into the emotional health of individuals. But transformative, emotionally healthy discipleship is a methods-based biblical theology that, when fully implemented, informs every area of a church, ministry, or organization. It is a discipleship structure built from the center that: Slows down our lives so we can cultivate a deep, personal relationship with Jesus. Challenges the values of Western culture that have compromised the radical call to follow the crucified Jesus. Integrates sadness, loss, and vulnerability, that, when left out, leave people defensive and easily triggered. Acknowledges God's gift of limits in our lives. Connects how our family and personal history influence our discipleship in the present. Measures our spiritual maturity by how we are growing in our ability to love others. In *Emotionally Healthy Discipleship*, bestselling author Pete Scazzero takes leaders step-by-step through how to create an emotionally healthy culture and multiply deeply-changed people in every aspect of church life, including: Leadership and team development Marriage and single ministry Small groups and youth and children's ministry Preaching, worship, and administration Outreach Complete with assessments and practical strategies, *Emotionally Healthy Discipleship* will help you move people to the beneath-the-surface discipleship that actually has the power to change the world. **Winner of the 2022 ECPA Christian Book Award for Ministry Resources**

willow creek reveal study: *Measuring Spiritual Maturity* Randy Tompkins, 2019-10-21 Jesus commissioned His apostles and, by extension, the church to make disciples. Many church leaders have come to the conclusion that attending worship services and Bible study classes will result in making disciples. A review of statistical reports indicates a majority of church members and attenders do not believe this process will work, or they have come to the conclusion they do not want to become disciples. The 2010 US Religion Census report indicated 79% of the 150,686,156 members, children, and other attenders did not attend worship services. It also reported over 60% of the same group did not attend Bible study classes. In 2014 one of the major denominations in the United States reported 63% of church members did not attend worship services and 62% did not attend Bible study classes. There are literally thousands of spiritual surveys available to church leaders. A majority of these surveys develop conclusions based on a single survey being administered or two surveys being administered several months apart. If a disciple-making process is to be effective, there needs to be a method of measuring the progress of individuals moving toward spiritual maturity. This type of measurement would produce a visual of spiritual growth, spiritual decline, or spiritual non-growth. The only way to measure the spiritual progress of an individual is to create a measurement of the various elements of the spiritual life. The process of measuring spiritual maturity in this book is self-contained within the participating church, and the responses of the participating individuals are highly confidential and warehoused by the participating church.

willow creek reveal study: *Encyclopedia of Christian Education* George Thomas Kurian, Mark A. Lamport, 2015-05-07 Christianity regards teaching as one of the most foundational and critically sustaining ministries of the Church. As a result, Christian education remains one of the largest and oldest continuously functioning educational systems in the world, comprising both formal day schools and higher education institutions as well as informal church study groups and parachurch ministries in more than 140 countries. In *The Encyclopedia of Christian Education*, contributors explore the many facets of Christian education in terms of its impact on curriculum, literacy, teacher training, outcomes, and professional standards. This encyclopedia is the first reference work devoted exclusively to chronicling the unique history of Christian education across the globe, illustrating how Christian educators pioneered such educational institutions and reforms as universal literacy, home schooling, Sunday schools, women's education, graded schools, compulsory education of the deaf and blind, and kindergarten. With an editorial advisory board of more than 30

distinguished scholars and five consulting editors, The Encyclopedia of Christian Education contains more than 1,200 entries by 400 contributors from 75 countries. These volumes covers a vast range of topics from Christian education: History spanning from the church's founding through the Middle Ages to the modern day Denominational and institutional profiles Intellectual traditions in Christian education Biblical and theological frameworks, curricula, missions, adolescent and higher education, theological training, and Christian pedagogy Biographies of distinguished Christian educators This work is ideal for scholars of both the history of Christianity and education, as well as researchers and students of contemporary Christianity and modern religious education.

willow creek reveal study: Mission Drift Peter Greer, Chris Horst, 2014-02-10 A Christianity Today 2015 Book Award Winner Is your organization in danger of Mission Drift? Without careful attention, faith-based organizations drift from their founding mission. It's that simple. It will happen. Slowly, silently, and with little fanfare, organizations routinely drift from their purpose, and many never return to their original intent. Harvard and the YMCA are among those that no longer embrace the Christian principles on which they were founded. But they didn't drift off course overnight. Drift often happens in small and subtle ways. Left unchecked, it eventually becomes significant. Yet Mission Drift is not inevitable. Organizations such as Compassion International and InterVarsity have exhibited intentional, long-term commitment to Christ. Why do so many organizations--including churches--wander from their mission, while others remain Mission True? Can drift be prevented? In Mission Drift, HOPE International executives Peter Greer and Chris Horst tackle these questions. They show how to determine whether your organization is in danger of drift, and they share the results of their research into Mission True and Mission Untrue organizations. Even if your organization is Mission True now, it's wise to look for ways to inoculate yourself against drift. You'll discover what you can do to prevent drift or get back on track and how to protect what matters most. No organization is exempt from the danger of drifting away from its original mission. In Mission Drift, Peter and Chris provide solid guidance for remaining laser-focused on core values--from the board level to daily organizational culture. This book is a timely message for any organization working hard to remain Mission True. --Wess Stafford, president-emeritus, Compassion International Peter Greer and Chris Horst have identified one of the deepest challenges any leader faces: how to ensure that an organization stays true to its mission, especially when that mission becomes countercultural. --Andy Crouch, executive editor, Christianity Today Essential reading for twenty-first-century believers if we are to gain new vision, unity, and strength. Mission Drift is spine straightening, mind clearing, and courage inspiring. This book is true-north wisdom for leaders--and a gift of hope for the world God loves. --Kelly Monroe Kullberg, founder, The Veritas Forum and author, Finding God Beyond Harvard Many of us in leadership have learned--often painfully--that our mission needs to be built into every aspect of our organization, from leadership to receptionist, from hiring to implementation. We can't afford not to follow the lessons in this valuable book. --Richard Stearns, president, World Vision U.S. and author, The Hole in Our Gospel Keeping an eternal perspective is essential in our work. Mission Drift gives a clear message inspiring and challenging us to intentionally keep Christ at the center of all efforts. --David Green, founder and CEO, Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc. Written with clarity, boldness, and urgency, the authors provide insight into and examples of the causes and solutions to drift using the stories of real organizations...A must-read! Recommend this book to every business and church leader.--CBA Retailers+Resources This book is a must-read for leaders, easy to read, practical, engaging and inspirational. The principals outlined not only apply to major corporations, but also to any organization, church and even to one's own personal life. Mission Drift . . . will be well worth the effort and time, and you will find yourself wanting to begin implementing what you've learned to safeguard your organization from drifting away from its mission.--Foursquare.org

willow creek reveal study: Join the Club Tina Rosenberg, 2011-04-08 In the style of Nudge or The Spirit Level - a groundbreaking book that will change the way you look at the world. Tina Rosenberg has spent her career tackling some of the world's hardest problems. The Haunted Land, her searing book on how Eastern Europe faced the crimes of Communism, was awarded both the

National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize in the US. In *Join the Club*, she identifies a brewing social revolution that is changing the way people live, based on harnessing the positive force of peer pressure. Her stories of peer power in action show how it has reduced teen smoking in the United States, made villages in India healthier and more prosperous, helped minority students get top grades in college calculus, and even led to the fall of Slobodan Milosevic. She tells how creative social entrepreneurs are starting to use peer pressure to accomplish goals as personal as losing weight and as global as fighting terrorism. Inspiring and engrossing, *Join the Club* explains how we can better our world through humanity's most powerful and abundant resource: our connections with one another.

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