

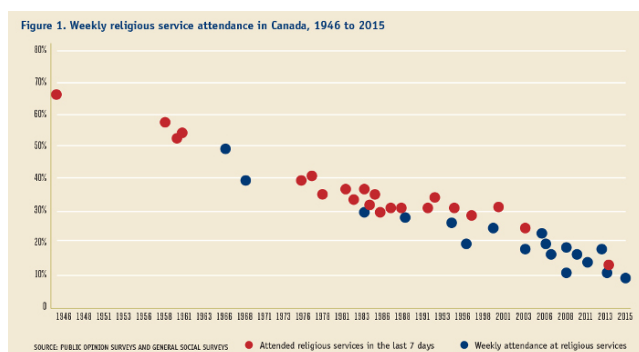
INTRO

- Have you ever worked in sales? (Even if selling just cookies as a fundraiser or the like). What was your experience?
- Do you like it when someone approaches you to sell you something? How do you usually respond?

The Cruciform Way – taking the message of the cross to the world

“Come to church” vs. “come to Jesus”

In Canada church attendance has been on a continual decline for 70 years. More and better church services are not the answer. We must reclaim the passion of the early church to share the message of the cross. And by the way, church attendance will also go back up!



READ

Mark 16:9-16

Amazingly, one of the first things Jesus did after the resurrection was to rebuke the disciples for their hardness of heart and unbelief that he had indeed risen from the dead. Then Jesus told them to go into all the world and proclaim the gospel.

Hardness of heart and unbelief still to this day hinder the gospel moving forward.

READ

Proverbs 29:25; 2 Timothy 3:12; John 14:27; Psalm 34:18

REFLECT & RESPOND

Three areas where hardness of heart creeps in:

- Fear of man
- Disappointment from past experiences
- Personal struggles

The **fear of man** manifests as people-pleasing, compromised values, peer pressure, and a choice not to share our faith. The fear of man can be a snare when we allow it to influence our decisions.

**Disappointment** from past attempts to share the gospel can leave us in a state where we have given up on sharing the gospel.

**Personal struggles** are a blockage because we don't feel like Jesus is coming through for us, so why would we be motivated to share him with others?

*Qu: Which of the three situations described pertains most to you?*

*Qu: How can we help one another overcome these blockages?*

PRAY

- Pray for healing of our hearts where blockages have crept in that stop the gospel from being proclaimed through us
- Pray that God would open our eyes to people around us who we could share the gospel with
- Pray that many who are hurting right now, but may look successful on the outside, will come to know Jesus through us