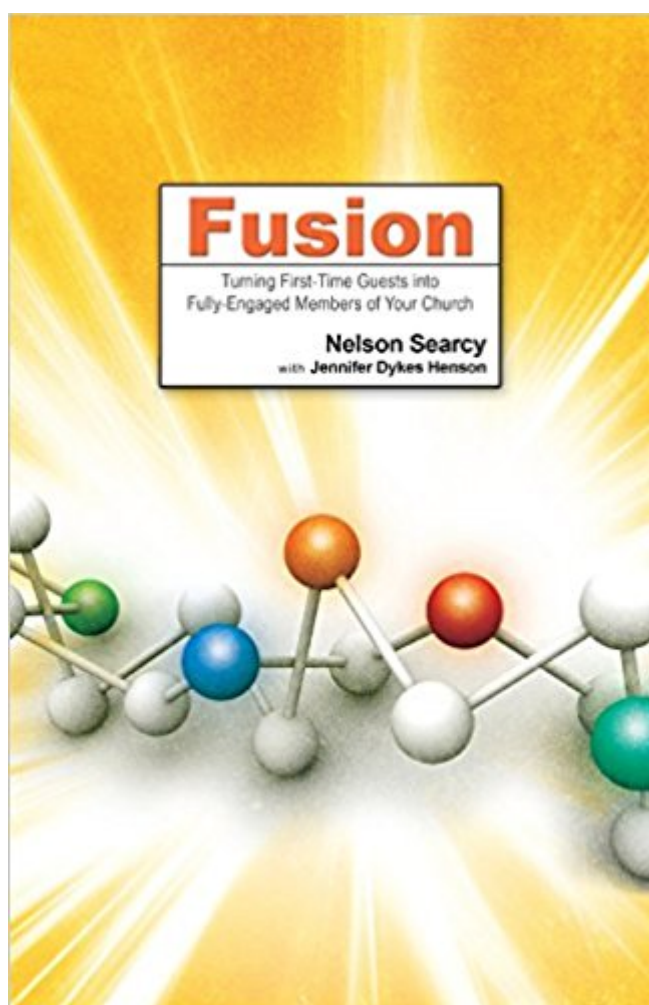


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Fusion: Turning First-Time Guests Into Fully-Engaged Members Of Your Church



Synopsis

Engaging, informative, and immediately applicable, this biblically grounded, proven plan for establishing relationships with newcomers prompting them to become fully developing members of our congregations.

Book Information

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Baker Books (January 2, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0801018269

ISBN-13: 978-0801018268

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.4 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.9 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 145 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #45,634 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #19 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Churches & Church Leadership > Church Growth #22 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Churches & Church Leadership > Church Administration #78 in Books > Christian Books & Bibles > Churches & Church Leadership > Pastoral Resources

Customer Reviews

Next Sunday God will prompt hundreds of thousands of people in the United States, and millions around the world, to visit a church for the first time. The Sunday after that, He will do it again. God is consistently blessing His Church with regular guests. Are we doing all we can to accept and honor His blessing? Built on Nelson Searcy's Assimilation Seminar, Fusion offers you a step-by-step, biblically-grounded, tested and proven plan for establishing a relationship with newcomers that starts with the first seven minutes of their visit and ultimately prompts them to become fully developing members of your congregation. This innovative, practical guide is full of how-to information, testimonials from newcomers-turned- members and from participating church leaders, examples of assimilation materials and check points to make sure you stay on track. Here is help for setting newcomers on the path toward true life transformation and spiritual maturity.

--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Nelson Searcy is the founding and lead pastor of The Journey Church. Started in 2002 in New York City, this groundbreaking church sees the majority of its growth coming from new believers and

currently meets in locations in Manhattan, Queens, and Staten I

Sometimes 'church growth' books (and their authors) seem to try to make church growth the primary mission of the church. Church growth is a legitimate result of seeking the true mission of the church, but not the goal itself. Searcy's book is centered on seeing lives changed. Fusion is based on the mandate of biblical hospitality, of seeing each first time visitor in a church as a gift from God.

Searcy's challenge is for the reader to demonstrate to visitors that he or she actually cares about the people who enters the doors of the church for the first time. He shares systems that his team have developed to make visitors to church feel less threatened and more comfortable. His systems for enhancing assimilation begin before the first visit and continue until the visitor has become settled in the church by becoming an active member. Well written. Insightful. Innovative. Practical. Useful.

A fellow Pastor at another church knew that I was going to be reviewing our assimilation process at church, he recommended this book to me and I am so glad that I took up his suggestion and bought this book. Nelson Searcy has written a simple to understand, step by step guide book on how a church should look at assimilation. I think what impressed me the most is his concept that you can't help people find Jesus Christ unless they become regular attenders at your church. Yes, it is true that a first time visitor might be drawn to Christ through the experience, but more than likely it is just the first step on the path towards Christ. Thus if you have lots of first time visitors but no second time visitors then you are missing an opportunity to share the Gospel with people who are searching. Maybe even a better way that Searcy puts it is that God has given you the gift of a first time visitor, what are you going to do with that gift? Often times churches seem to not care about the visitor and they can tell that the minute they walk in the door. No matter how good the sermon they will never return. Searcy states that you have 7 minutes to make a first good impression with a visitor. That means that they have formed an opinion long before they hear any music, hear any prayers or hear the sermon. So, are your greeters friendly? Are they genuine? Can a visitor easily find his way around your facility? Are they offered food and drink upon arrival? What is their experience like? These and many other questions are answered in this short book. There are also evaluation forms and suggestions of letters that you can mimic in your process. This is a great book, a wonderful tool. If you don't own it but want to know about good assimilation techniques then buy a copy today. Enjoy!

As the Senior Pastor of a church in a small community, we were always looking for ways to not only reach people, but keep people. The Book Fusion has given us a formula that works. After implementing the ideas presented by Nelson, we have seen our first time guests turn into second time guests and then into regular attendees. As a result, we have grown from an average weekly attendance of 180 to 225 in just 3 months. Awesome! The book gave us some powerful ideas. These are some take away's from the book that have revolutionized our church.

1. The guests who come through our doors are gifts from God and what we do with that gift proves how much we appreciate them. No one person who comes through our door comes haphazardly. By sending that guest to us, God is giving us the privilege of cooperating with Him to move someone forward in their journey toward Jesus.
2. All we get is 7 minutes to make a positive first impression. In the first seven minutes of contact with our church, our first-time guests will know whether or not they are coming back.
3. The four components of the pre-service will help determine whether our first-time guests will return or not. These four components are crucial in creating the first impression. The way we greet people, direct people, treat people, and seat people will make their experience with us a lasting one.
4. Creating a Communication Card is crucial, not just for us, but for our 1st time guest. This is how we can help them move from un-churched visitors to fully developing followers of Jesus. Having everyone from member to first-time time guest fill out the card is necessary to help our guests fill out their card.
5. Follow through is not optional; it's integral. Our follow-up needs to be fast but it has to be friendly and not look like some mass mailing. But it also needs to contain a gift which lets them know that we truly appreciated their being our guests.
6. When our guests return for a second look, we have won 80% of the battle because we have increased our chances that they will begin a journey with Christ. It is during this second visit that we encourage them to take the next steps and we follow-up with them again through either e-mail or snail mail.
7. A major key is to create sticky situations because if we do not connect our second time guests to others in our church, within four to six months they will be gone. Our job is to guide them in the right direction to form relationships that last.
10. We want to offer people service opportunities because this gives people an opportunity to connect with others as well as helping them take ownership of the church. And, as they take ownership of the church that moves them closer to church membership.

This book has been a gift from God. Thanks Nelson. Rick Dorr[...]

I pastor a small church that I am looking to grow. I knew the area of assimilation was a shortcoming for the church. I was excited that God added people to our number, but felt like there were so many that visited and didn't return. I understand I can't catch the all, but I wanted to increase my retention

rate. This book gives you all the tools necessary to do just that.

Excellent book to help churches welcome and retain members. I have used these materials and methodologies in two churches with very good success. Highly recommend

Our church is in the process of engaging in full assimilation. We have read and are using Fusion as our foundation for working the process. Our church is excited as we are "assimilating" our current congregation to the concept as we reach out to meet, greet and keep our first-time guests. Our church is located in a small rural town in Eastern North Carolina. Nelson Searcy is a graduate from Gardner-Webb University in North Carolina and I am currently working as an adjunct professor for the same school. That makes this even more exciting.

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