



the carbonated church

Part 1 - Flat

What Causes A Church To Become Flat?

A Flat Church Has _____ Its Enthusiasm

John 7:38-39, "Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart'". (When he said "living water," he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him.)"

A Flat Church Has _____ Its First Love

Revelation 2:4, "Yet I hold this against you; you have forsaken your first love. Remember the height from which you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first!"

A Flat Church Has _____ Too Long On Past Successes

2 Samuel 11:1, "In the spring of the year, when kings normally go out to war, David sent Joab and the Israelite army to fight the Ammonites..."

The First Church's Growth Chart:

Acts 1:15 "in those days Peter stood among the believers and the group numbered about 120."

Acts 2:41. Those who accepted His message were baptized and about 3000 were added to their number that day."

Acts 2:47 "Praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people and the Lord added to their number daily those that were being saved."

Acts 4:4 "But many who heard the message believed and the number of men grew to be five thousand."

Acts 5:14 "Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number."

Acts 5:28 "We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching."

Acts 6:1 "In those days the number of disciples was increasing [or multiplying]"

Acts 6:7 "So the word of God spread and the number of disciples increased in Jerusalem rapidly."

Acts 21:20 "When they heard this they praised God and said to Paul, 'You see brother, how many thousands of Jews have believed.'"

Ask Yourself:

" _____ ?"

Small Group Discussion:

ICEBREAKER: Tell us about yourself.

- Name as many things as you can that can go flat? Does "flat" usually have a negative connotation? What's your least favorite "flat" thing?
- If someone said, "My life has just been flat lately", what would you understand them to mean? In that context, what would "fizz" mean?
- Take a look at the fill in the blank handout on the reverse side. What are the reasons listed for a church becoming "flat"?
- When is a church usually most enthusiastic?
- Do you agree with the statement, "Flat churches are full of flat people?" Why or why not? What causes people to become flat?
- Can you think of a time when you were more in love with Jesus than you are right now? What could you do to prove you're excited about your relationship with Christ?
- Read the First Church's Growth Chart from the reverse side. Take turns reading each verse of scripture.
- What can we learn from the first church?
- Church growth is supposed to be natural. What could this group do together to cause our church to grow more?

Prayer: Exchange prayer requests and then pray for the person on your right until everyone is prayed for.