

Notes: Spiral Rule Tool

(This is the second tool in the Reality Check 101 Kit)

This tool talks about a rule that effects every church. Keeping this rule in mind aids church leaders as they plan. It relates to the difference between Hospital and Hospitality of the previous H-H-H Reality Check tool. This is the shortest of the three tools and the easiest concept to grasp, but it is worth devoting extra time to the group process at the end of the tool.



The following notes supplement the slide's text. Presenters should practice putting the idea of each slide into their own words.

1. This tool states a universal rule about church life -- a rule like gravity. The Spiral Rule decides whether your church is going down the drain or up towards glory. This rule effects churches of every size and it doesn't seem to be likely to go away.
2. Think of outward focus as effecting more than just money for missions. When you put on a social event, do you mostly advertise to those inside the church or do you seriously try to invite new people? What about your prayers during worship? What items in the budget get the most complaints?
3. Imagine a spiral that gets bigger at the top... Other examples may be a tornado or those games you see at the mall where a coin goes around and around a ramp until it goes down the hole in the center.
4. Jesus says, "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you." Churches that focus their attention and resources outward grow.
5. Use a specific example such as a bequest of \$10,000 coming to the church. Then provide a short time for people to discuss. Don't be surprised or mention it if people seem to be more generous with this abstract money than they have been with the real windfalls the church has had in the past.
6. Have each person mark on their own paper where they think the church is headed.
7. Circumstances include the current pastor, the departure of the previous pastor, the competition of neighboring churches, the lack of money, etc. Once one turns inward, it is easy to find a scapegoat for the church's decline. Note that every rapidly growing church today has a serious commitment to reach those outside the church.

Note: The Spiral Rule concept was developed by Bill Kemp of the UMC Western PA Conference. Reality Check & other resources can be found at www.notperfectyet.com