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Sticky Church (Leadership Network Innovation Series)



Synopsis

In *Sticky Church*, author and pastor Larry Osborne makes the case that closing the back door of your church is even more important than opening the front door wider. He offers a time-tested strategy for doing so: sermon-based small groups that dig deeper into the weekend message and tightly velcro members to the ministry. It's a strategy that enabled Osborne's congregation to grow from a handful of people to one of the larger churches in the nation—without any marketing or special programming. *Sticky Church* tells the inspiring story of North Coast Church's phenomenal growth and offers practical tips for launching your own sermon-based small group ministry. Topics include: Why stickiness is so important Why most of our discipleship models don't work very well Why small groups always make a church more honest and transparent What makes groups grow deeper and stickier over time *Sticky Church* is an ideal book for church leaders who want to start or retool their small group ministry—and velcro their congregation to the Bible and each other

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Customer Reviews

In *Sticky Church*, author and pastor Larry Osborne makes the case that closing the back door of your church is even more important than opening the front door wider. He offers a time-tested strategy for doing so: sermon-based small groups that dig deeper into the weekend message and tightly velcro members to the ministry. It's a strategy that enabled Osborne's congregation to grow

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Larry Osborne is a teaching pastor at North Coast Church in northern San Diego County. North Coast is widely recognized as one of the most influential and innovative churches in America. Osborne speaks extensively on the subjects of leadership and spiritual formation. His books include Sticky Teams, Sticky Church, 10 Dumb Things Smart Christians Believe, and Spirituality for the Rest of Us. He and his wife, Nancy, live in Oceanside, California.

So many churches have issues with members sticking with them. The back door needs to be closed. The ideas in this book offer practical help in how this can be done. It is an easy read. The lessons are drawn from the experiences of Osborne and his North Coast Church. I wonder how it works in a different setting, community and church culture. The preparation of the questions and resources for the small groups seems a daunting task. More help there would be a good revision for this book.

Good thought provoking things to consider for any church. Helping church leaders to consider how to close the backdoor and help those who come stick around is something that we all need to look at. It's easy to focus on the front door and I think that is what we have done and what a lot of church "programs" do. But our goal is to help people make it to Heaven, not just usher them in and move to the next people to usher in. This book was also an easy read. It's more about the experiences of the author and his church has gone through. So don't expect Scriptural studies on how Jesus ran his ministry. Aside from that, I think it is a good read and helps church leaders to evaluate small groups.

I just finished a book summary on Sticky Church by Larry Osborne. As the pastor of a mega-church in San Diego, one of the quickest growing regions in California, some of his assumptions may be driven by his fortuitous location. Most churches would be quite satisfied to experience the sort of explosive growth he had prior to the implementation of Sticky Church principals. The fact that it

tripled or quadrupled in size over the next twenty years is partly due to his methodology and partly due to what was going on and his fortunate realization that the Cho empty chair model was not going to be successful in America the way it was in Korea or in other authoritarian type cultures. The Lecture/Lab model for sermon-based small groups is not revolutionary, but it's simplicity is. Because everything his ministry does is focused on the impact to the small group, the sticky factor is always the focus of his outcome based strategy. I bought this book to write the summary knowing that I had already been working this model in my own church with a tremendous effect. I am on year 3 of the lecture/lab model and it works, it's that simple. I would recommend this to anyone who is starting a small group or is ready to revamp their existing strategy. The reasons Osborne gives are sound and natural, with the exception of the assimilation theory he uses. I cannot get behind him on that. He really should write a different book on assimilation if he is going to recommend it without supporting his conclusions. Great book though.

This is a great model - serve your people so well that they can't not talk about their congregation to their friends.

I love books that give you a way of thinking rather than a model to follow. This book is a great representation of the former. I gave it 3 out of 5 stars because his use of metaphors was inconsistent.

Can help with directing your path of how to do small groups in your church. Great charts! Very honest and candid opinion of the author.

A very practical book on how to start, run, and maintain a small group ministry in your church. It is excellent in thinking and philosophy of ministry and falls in line with the Word of God. I really like how he deals with issues that I have personally wondered and felt, but never been able to put into words. Larry puts it into words and has me shaking my head in agreement, saying, "Amen."

As someone who is interested in developing and leading small groups, I found this book to be very insightful very accessible. I appreciate Larry's approach to sermon based small groups. His humility in approaching the subject is one of the best qualities about the book. He presents the material in such a way that it allows the reader to take or leave any bit of what they have found as a success for them. It is very comprehensive in his discussion of how to start groups to who to look for to lead

them. All the while communicating that each situation circumstance might look a little different than what they describe in the book based on culture and people.

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