

Lesson 2: What's the Problem

Module 1: Getting Started

The world keeps changing. And that makes ministry challenging. We just weren't prepared to lead our churches in the world we now live in.

Check out these statistics.

According to Gallup, membership in houses of worship has gone down significantly in the past two decades:

- 1999, 70%
- 2018, 50%
- 2020, 47%

In 1937, church attendance was at 73% and then held steady until the turn of the century. Since then, there has been a steady decline in church attendance.

We also see a decline in church attendance among the generations.

- Born before 1946, 66% attend church
- Baby Boomers, 58% attend church
- Generation X, 50% attend church
- Millennials, 36% attend church

Those with no religious affiliation (the "nones") is also increasing. These percentages show the increase in no affiliation since 2000.

- From 4% - 7% among those born before 1946
- From 7% -13% for Baby Boomers
- From 11% - 20% for Gen Xers

The fact is, we were prepared were prepared for a "Christendom" world. But we live in an increasingly "post-Christendom" world. As a result, we need to learn to lead adaptively, rather than technically.

Technical vs. Adaptive Leadership

Technical leadership is required for situations that involve challenges for which we already have solutions.

- Jot down a few examples of technical leadership (in society and in the church).

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Adaptive leadership, on the other hand, is required for challenges for which there are no known solutions.

- When have you seen adaptive leadership at work (in society and in the church).:

Reflect

When have you led technical change?

Have you ever had to lead adaptive change? What was it?

What makes adaptive change so challenging?