

## YOU ASKED FOR IT 2018

**WEEK ONE:** *What's wrong with the American Church? Recognizing and responding to the decline in the U.S. church.*

**Matthew 16:28, Matthew 21:13, 2 Chronicles 7:14**

- I. THE CHURCH IS DECLINING
  
- II. REASONS FOR DECLINE
  
- III. RESPONDING TO DECLINE

### Questions for Community Groups and Individual Bible Study:

**For Starters:** Discuss the state of the American (western church). What are some positives and negatives? What are some reasons people attend church less today than ever before?

### Quick Fire Round:

- Research states the four major reasons for church decline are: Living in a Post-Christian culture; Greater choices and competition for time; Demise of cultural/consumer Christianity; Church inward focus and unwillingness to change. Do you agree? What could or should be done about addressing these issues?
- Define cultural or consumer Christianity. How has this mentality impacted all of life not just church? Is it necessarily a bad thing churches might get smaller in the future?
- Define church health. Does size equate to health? Read Matthew 28:19-20, Acts 2:42-43, Acts 20:20, Ephesians 4:11-12 and Proverbs 29:18. *Why must churches stay married to their mission but date their model?* How can churches tend to marry their models and ignore their mission and vision? Relate and connect this to North Metro.
- Read Isaiah 56:7, Matthew 21:13 and 2 Chronicles 7:14. How have churches lost sight of prayer and worship as central to health? How could individuals and groups commit to pray consistently for unity, one another, leaders, mission and vision? What could happen at NMC if prayer and worship became foundational to everything we did? What would happen if the church looked outward rather than inward?

**The challenge:** What is NMC's greatest strength and greatest challenge ahead? How can we be effective and healthy for the future? Consider **one thing** you can do that will help NMC be effective in our mission and vision today and for the next generation.