



GROUPS MATTER.

Astounding Statistics Every Group Leader Needs to Know

New research reveals churchgoers' view of eternity.

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LifeWay Research recently made this astounding statistic available.

“While the majority of churchgoers (75 percent) strongly hold the God of the Bible is not the same god worshiped in other world religions, 13 percent say the God of the Bible is no different from the gods or spiritual beings depicted by world religions such as Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, etc. Another 12 percent neither agree nor disagree with the uniqueness of the God of the Bible.”

At first glance, this sounds positive. When a poll is taken and 75% of the people polled agree on something, we feel pretty good about that statistic. But this information isn't telling us what percentage of people are positive about President Obama or what percentage of people are in love with Congress. This poll is declaring what percentage of churchgoers—**people who attend church**—believe that Jesus is the only way to start an eternal relationship with God.

Small group leader, if you are leading a group of ten people, it's very possible that at least one of your regular group members may believe that Jesus is no different than Buddha or Mohammed. Even more astounding ... another person in the group may be apathetic when it comes to which god makes it possible to connect with the only true God for all of eternity.

You would do well to listen closely when the group is meeting and ask questions that will aid you in discerning who is in need of knowing that Jesus is the only way to God. After all, wouldn't you hate to think that someone in your group ended up eternally separated from God because you were as apathetic about a group member's eternal existence as that person was about Jesus and His promises.

“I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6) ... Jesus. ■