

FRUIT INSPECTION GUIDE

A CHURCH HEALTH ASSESSMENT TOOL

“I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in Me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without Me” (John 15:5 HCSB).

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CINCINNATI AREA
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

WORSHIP INSPECTION

On a scale of 1 to 5 how would you rate your church in worship? 1=clueless, 2=vague idea, 3=good understanding, 4 above average commitment, and 5=strong, solid commitment

1. Church acknowledges Jesus as Lord of all and responds by expressing love for Him through worship

2. Church encourages missions giving through the Cooperative Program, the Association, and SBC/SCBO special missions offerings

3. Church encourages/resources members to experience God's power/presence by seeking Him through daily prayer & Bible study

4. Teachers establish an environment in Bible study classes and departments that lead people to encourage the life-changing God during and beyond Bible study sessions

5. Church has examined how well its worship style and time(s) fits its members/prospective members, and has made appropriate changes

6. Leaders are prepared for, and opportunity is given for the spiritually lost to respond to the gospel at every worship service

7. Church regularly involves volunteers in the worship service, both in planning, conducting, and evaluating

8. Church consistently uses a variety of creative elements in worship services such as readings, different styles of music, drama, video, sermons, worship leadership, etc.

9. Church receives the offering as an act of worship

10. Church has stewardship/giving emphasis at least once a year

11. Church encourages families to have a weekly "Family Bible study" time together.

12. Church has a system for greeting first time visitors, receiving information from them, and helping them to feel welcome

TOTAL WORSHIP FRUIT INSPECTION COUNT — Add the column and look to the fruit boxes on the right to see where your church falls.

Great Fruit

50 to 60 points

Overall good condition.
Some minor corrections could be made

Marginal Fruit

40 to 49 points

Several changes in church lifestyle are needed

Unhealthy Fruit

30 to 39 points

Fruit fails inspection and needs serious attention

Barren

12 to 29 points

Urgent care is required to return to fruit-bearing

FRUIT INSPECTION GUIDE

EVANGELISM & MISSIONS INSPECTION

On a scale of 1 to 5 how would you rate your church in reaching people and leading people to faith in the Lord Jesus Christ? 1=clueless, 2=vague idea, 3=good understanding, 4 above average commitment, and 5=strong, solid commitment

1. The majority of our church's members share their faith with others on a regular basis

2. Members pray for spiritually lost people to come to faith in Jesus as their Lord and Savior

3. There a genuine concern for our community's spiritual condition

4. Members are actively inviting lost people to become involved in a Bible study group

5. Each small group has an active outreach leader

6. Church has at least a monthly visitation program that encourages all members to be involved

7. Our church has an evangelistic plan to lead people to Jesus here, there, and everywhere (Acts 1:8)

8. Our church conducts special evangelistic events such as revivals, block parties, musical programs, etc.

9. Members are made aware of mission opportunities on a regular basis

10. Our church aggressively attempts to obey the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20)

11. Baptism is a celebration conducted at least quarterly

12. Church has a plan to fully involve new Christians into the life and ministry of the church

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DISCIPLE-MAKING INSPECTION

On a scale of 1 to 5 how would you rate your church in Bible study and discipleship? 1=clueless, 2=vague idea, 3=good understanding, 4 above average commitment, and 5=strong, solid commitment

1. Pastor regularly emphasizes the importance of Bible study small groups from the pulpit
2. Bible study leaders are enlisted early and are given appropriate training
3. Bible study leaders regularly attend at least a monthly workers meeting
4. A new members class or group is made available to provide the basics of what it means to follow Jesus
5. Appropriate Bible study curriculum materials are provided for each group
6. Church leadership has a clear plan to help believers mature in Christ by holding them accountable
7. Participants are encouraged and enabled to reproduce the lesson during the week within their own spheres of influence
8. Bible study classes enroll new members regularly and are recognized for doing so
9. Theme-based classes are offered such as marriage, financial management, parenting, spiritual warfare, etc.
10. Church surveys the needs of members and non-members to determine future ministry goals
11. Biblical giving and the stewardship of life are taught as the norm for believers
12. Opportunities are provided throughout the year for doctrinal and special emphasis studies

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FELLOWSHIP INSPECTION

On a scale of 1 to 5, how would you rate your church in establishing and building relationships with God and His people? 1=clueless, 2=vague idea, 3=good understanding, 4 above average commitment, and 5=strong, solid commitment

1. Church members provide an environment that encourages a sense of belong and acceptance for everyone

2. Church encourages new believers to unite with the church through baptism

3. Church has created an environment of grace, acceptance, support, and encouragement

4. Church provides opportunities to build relationships through fellowship activities beyond Sunday

5. Church provides opportunities to build fellowship through ongoing evangelism, missions, and ministry.

6. Church provides opportunities to build fellowship through special emphases such as Single Adult Day, Student Day, Senior Adult Day, etc.

7. Church maintains contact with members/prospects who are away from home and those in leadership in age groups other than their own

8. Church provides opportunities to build relationship by praying together

9. There are regular sermons focusing on the significance of fellowship in the life of the church

10. Church has developed strategies for extending fellowship to those who are not part of the church

11. Church is careful not to overburden staff members and volunteers so that there is no time for relationships

12. Church leaders have been trained to handle conflicts constructively

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MINISTRY INSPECTION

On a scale of 1 to 5 how would you rate your church in ministry? 1=clueless, 2=vague idea, 3=good understanding, 4 above average commitment, and 5=strong, solid commitment

1. Church identifies and informs people about ministry opportunities and their financial needs

2. Church assists individual Christians in identifying their spiritual gifts and abilities for ministry

3. Church is organized for effective ministry to members, prospects, and family members

4. Church equips people for ministry through ongoing Bible study and special training events

5. Church involves individuals and groups in ministry to people in need through Bible study classes, Sunday School classes, and other small groups

6. Church individuals and groups in one-on-one ministry opportunities through projects and special assignments

7. Church provides church-wide ministry projects for individual and/or family participation

8. Church demonstrates a climate open to ministry in the local community and area

9. Church involves individuals and groups in ongoing outreach for the purpose of ministry.

10. Church integrates prayer in all of its ongoing ministries as part of its normal activity, plans, and processes

11. Church involves individuals and groups in the ministry of intercessory prayer, particularly for those needing help within the church and outside the church

12. Church regularly sends out those who will minister to others as missionaries, pastors, and other ministry-specific roles

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FRUIT INSPECTION INVENTORY

In the spaces below, write the average score of your church's leadership team for each purpose.

Subtotal the scores, then divide by five to arrive at your total score. Use the four boxes on the right to see the overall health of your church. Spend time discussing each purpose and specific needs that show up on the inspection sheets. Then write the three top priorities you would like to work on in the coming months.

Worship

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Evangelism & Missions

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Disciple-making

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Fellowship

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Ministry

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Church _____

Association _____

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Subtotal _____

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Overall Score