

Creating a Women's Survey

Whether you are beginning a Women's Ministry or evaluating your present ministry, one of the most important tools you can use is an assessment survey. While it's impossible for us to design a survey that's perfect for your church, here are some questions and guidelines when developing a way to hear the heartbeat of the needs of the women in your church. (This sample survey is designed for women already attending your church – not unchurched women in your community)

Guidelines and Frequently Asked Questions:

Question: When should I survey the women in my church?

Answer: When you are beginning a women's ministry, reforming your ministry, or if you have not done a survey within five years. If you do several surveys, the number of responses will go down.

Question: How should I have women complete the survey?

Answer: Most churches find the most effective way to survey their women is through their weekly church bulletin. Usually an insert is designed and distributed in the worship service or during the Sunday School hour.

Question: Where should women bring completed surveys?

Answer: Some churches will ask for completed surveys to be collected at the end of a Sunday School period or place boxes in prominent areas around the church.

Question: How long should the survey be?

Answer: The shorter, the better. Women don't want to spend a lot of time completing surveys. Design the questions with simple answers that can be checked and only allow for a few open-ended questions or comments at the end.

Question: Should the surveys be anonymous?

Answer: It depends on the kind of survey you are taking. If you are looking for women to volunteer in certain areas of ministry, you will want them to complete information so they can be contacted in the future. If the goal is just to obtain information, anonymous surveys work well.

Question: What about an online survey?

Answer: There are several online services where you can design a survey and direct women to a website. Remember to consider how many women in your church use their computers frequently and how comfortable they are in answering questions online.

Question: Can they just e-mail me their answers?

Answer: Many women would prefer spending a few minutes on their computer, so produce an massive e-mail list with the survey and see what you get back! Or – use your church website to distribute an e-mail survey and have it returned to you.

Question: How can I get women to complete and return the survey?

Answer: If your surveys are not anonymous, entice women to complete the survey and be entered for a drawing for a small prize. Or, have a small give-away for each completed survey as a way to thank women for taking the time to complete the questionnaire.

Sample Survey:

Please complete the following to help our church plan ministry to and with women.

1. Of the following, which interests you the most in women's ministry:

- Prayer Ministry
- Outreach Ministry
- Bible Studies
- Mission Projects
- Fellowship Opportunities

2. Which describes you best?

- Single, Never Married
- Single, Divorced
- Single, Widowed
- Married, No Children
- Married with Small Children
- Married with Teens
- Married with Adult Children

3. Which describes you best?

- Working outside the home full time
- Working outside the home part time
- Homemaker
- Retired

4. Which time of the week works best for your schedule when planning women's activities?

- Daytime during the week
- Evenings during the week
- Weekends

5. What kind of fellowship/events interest you?

- Women's retreat
- Banquets
- Luncheons
- Home fellowships/coffees
- Other: _____

6. What kind of Bible studies would you participate in?

- In-depth women's study:
 - Weekday
 - Lunch time

Weekday evening Sunday evening

Please specify: _____

Book reviews

Counseling

Would you recommend a study you would be interested in?

7. I would participate in the following:

Witnessing training

Praying for missionaries

Short-term mission trips United States International

Community mission projects Ideas? _____

8. The following community ministries interest me:

Literacy

Tutoring

Pregnancy Center

Hospital Ministry

International ministry

Nursing home ministry

Food pantry/clothing closet

Other: _____

9. I would be willing to help with the following at a women's event:

Publicity

Food preparation and organization

Decorating

Childcare help

Prayer committee

10. I currently attend: (check all that apply)

Sunday School

Worship

Women's Bible study

Women's events

11. Have you been active in women's ministry?

Yes

No

Why or why not?

12. Describe what you would like to see in our women's ministry: