

Some different thoughts on assessment for church planting questions:

What things do you enjoy doing just for the sake of doing?

What do you avoid doing and why?

How might money and offers of promotions side track you from a true calling?

Modified to deal with what is salvation.

Ministry Qualifications

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| - Relationship with God | - Relationships |
| - Personal Integrity | - Spousal Support |
| - Emotional Health/Self Image | - Teach-ability |
| - Marriage and Family | - Relational Ability |

Personal Qualities & Skills

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| - Vision / Philosophy of Ministry | - Entrepreneurial Organizer |
| - Evangelist Leadership | |

Public Ministry Skills

- | | |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| - Enthusiasm / Passion | - Knowledge of Church Growth |
| - Faith | - Discipling |
| - Productivity | - Team Builder |
| - Knowledge of Church Planting | - Resilient |

Are You a Church Planter in the Making?

Most potential church planters struggle with the question, "Could I really be an effective church planter?" Actually, this is a question that should receive strong consideration. You may have spiritual gifts that you are not even fully aware of, gifts that are especially suited to effectively starting a new church.

Do you have what it takes to be a successful church planter? Take this self-assessment quiz and find out! Simply mark your answers and follow the instructions at the end.

1. This past year I have pursued more learning by

- a. reading books, participating in seminars or classes, either online or otherwise and meeting with a mentor.
- b. reading books or listening to tapes and meeting with a mentor.
- c. participating in a seminar or class either online or face to face.
- d. reading books.

2. When someone attempts to keep me from implementing an idea, I

- a. attempt to persuade them to join me in accomplishing it.
- b. keep focused and just ignore him or her.
- c. refrain from implementing the idea until others agree with me.
- d. often get angry and give up on my idea.

3. I am good at sharing my ideas with others and encouraging them to join me in them.

- a. Most of the time.
- b. Some of the time.
- c. Rarely.
- d. I am most effective when I am assisting someone else with his or her ideas.

4. I generally

- a. complete most of the things I start.
- b. complete all of the things I start.
- c. complete a few things I start.
- d. am really not a good starter, but do better working under someone else.

5. I work best when I

- a. am able to work from ideas that were laid upon my heart by the Lord.
- b. can come up with a good idea and receive help in planning its development.
- c. am able to follow the ideas that God gave to another person.
- d. can be assigned a task that is part of someone else's idea and focus on that.

6. I usually complete tasks

- a. without having to be reminded.
- b. just before the deadline.
- c. with a gentle reminder from an associate or someone supervising me.
- d. after the deadline.

7. When I am overwhelmed with tasks to accomplish, I

- a. delegate the jobs to others.
- b. drop some of the less important jobs.
- c. will ask people to assist me only when the job would fail to be completed otherwise.
- d. get frustrated and do the minimum.

8. If I were allowed to start a new church, I would prefer

- a. to invest most of my time in reaching unchurched people.
- b. to spend 80% of my time with the church and about 20% of my time with the unchurched.
- c. to bring someone on my team who could communicate well with the unchurched so that I could devote my time to discipling Christians.
- d. to focus upon the needs of the people in the church.

9. I am currently pursuing

- a. multiple relationships with unchurched people for the purpose of loving them and leading them to the Lord.
- b. a relationship with an unchurched person in order to love him/her and lead him/her to the Lord.
- c. plans to start relationships with unchurched people for the purpose of loving them and leading them to the Lord.
- d. no relationship with an unchurched person for the purpose of loving them and leading them to Christ.

10. I function best when I

- a. can hang out with people who do not yet know Jesus.
- b. when I am relating to new Christians.
- c. when I can spend much of my time building relationships with Christians.
- d. when I am relating to mature Christians.

11. My spouse (if applicable, otherwise, move to #12)

- a. takes an active part in the ministry of the church whether in a visible way or behind the scenes.
- b. prefers to support my involvement in a supportive background role.
- c. considers ministry as my responsibility, not hers/his.
- d. believes ministry in the church is a detriment to our family life.

12. I make it a priority to

- a. schedule at least one time a week for relaxation and/or family fun. Only a drastic emergency can interfere with this time.
- b. regularly schedule a time of relaxation/refreshment with my spouse or for me personally (if not married).
- c. have a date with my spouse or a personal time of relaxation and fun (if single), when I can schedule it.
- d. have a full calendar of work related activities with little time for recreation, relaxation or family fun because my position/work requires that of me.

13. When new people start coming to my church,

- a. I try to encourage others to invite them to a small group gathering.
- b. I personally visit them.
- c. I usually let them visit a few times before inviting them to my home.
- d. I simply allow them to build relationships on their own.

14. I perceive the primary role of a pastor/leader would be to

- a. train and equip the people to serve/lead.
- b. lead and administrate the work of the church.
- c. preach the Good News of Jesus at my church.
- d. care for the needs of the people.

15. I believe the style of worship for a church should be

- a. flexible to changing times and people.
- b. set when the church first starts and changed only when the leadership changes.
- c. traditional and match time-honored values.
- d. what the pastor likes.

16. The way I prefer to learn about the needs of my community is through

- a. getting to know people personally in the community.
- b. the U.S. Census
- c. conducting a religious survey of the community.
- e. trial and error. Do an outreach, then learn from what went wrong.

17. I believe the best way to discover my spiritual gifts is to

- a. take a spiritual gift exam and have a personal interview with a pastor before trying an area of serving.
- b. try different areas of serving and find out what works.
- c. reflect on what I like to do and try doing something that incorporates that.
- d. wait to be asked by leaders to serve in some way .

18. On a scale of 1-4 with 1 being the lowest and 4 the highest, I would describe my capacity for multiple assignments to be:

- a. 4
- b. 3
- c. 2
- d. 1

19. When I am in a group of Christians that are divided over an issue, I

- a. help them focus on what we are called to do.
- b. serve as referee to bring peace.
- c. use the Bible to show the fault of their actions.
- d. probably find myself choosing sides.

20. In times of hardship and disappointment I

- a. usually strengthen my resolve to continue to follow the direction the Lord has given me for my life.

- b. may get discouraged for a while, but I go to the Lord and renew my pursuit of His direction for me.
- c. usually struggle with strong feelings of defeat and resign myself to the circumstances I am facing.
- d. often am so deeply affected that I feel isolated from other Christians and begin to ignore God.

21. On a scale of one to four, how convinced are you that God has called you to plant a church? (1 being not convinced and 4 being thoroughly convinced)

- a. 4
- b. 3
- c. 2
- d. 1

To score your quiz, give yourself: 4 points for every a. answer

3 points for every b answer

2 points for every c answer

1 point for every d answer

Add up your total score and see how your gifts and qualities match up with the qualities of effective church planters:

If you scored:

60-84: **Green Thumb**: Run, don't walk—to talk to your Senior Pastor about church planting!

45-59: **Explorer**—You should definitely explore church planting further. You could be an excellent team member for a planting team.

30-44: **Special Agent**—You may be gifted to take a specific assignment in a church plant as a help to the leadership team. Talk to a leader in your life and check out the needs of church planters near you.

20-29: **Investigator**—Your gifts will thrive in other areas of ministry. You should continue to investigate the options with the leaders in your life.

Note: If after taking this self-assessment, you were able to answer with either a or b on #21, then you very possibly could be _____ next church planter! We recommend that you make an appointment with your senior pastor and discover what next steps you should take.

Please respond to the following questions as accurately as possible while maintaining brevity, one paragraph unless noted otherwise. This section is for primary worker only. Spouse need not complete.

1. In a half-page or less, describe your calling to the ministry of church planting.
2. In what ways has God gifted you to serve in a Church Planting ministry? Please include how these gifts were identified (i.e. spiritual gift inventory, affirmation of church body, etc.) and a description of your operating in the gifts.
3. How are you involved in personal evangelism? Describe your most recent effort to lead someone to a personal conversion experience, giving time, place and result.
4. Describe an experience in which you gathered people together to accomplish a task. Include your responsibilities and the results.
5. Do you agree with Southern Baptists' statement of generally held convictions called The Baptist Faith and Message?
6. What pastor models have you admired and how do you see yourself as similar to or different from them?

7. Where have you felt you have exercised strong leadership in the past? Explain.
8. Do you have the physical and emotional stamina to take on this kind of tough role in the church, and how will it enhance your abilities as a church planter?
9. Why have so many “unchurched” not responded to the invitation to worship at our existing churches and what would you do differently to reach them?