

Our Experience of Christ

Please give completed exercises to the Session.

The basic question that shapes congregational vision and outreach is: *What is our experience with Jesus Christ that is supremely precious to the public around us?* The following exercises help congregational leaders begin to answer this question.

Share your *personal* perspective about what you think is generally true about your church 52 weeks a year. There may be exceptions at certain times, among specific people. Give your perspective on what you would consider to be constant or "normal" for the church.

Your perspective is *anonymous*. Do not write your name on the exercises. Simply complete each exercise and give it to the facilitator. All returns will be averaged to get a general perspective of church members of their church. The overall results will be shared with everyone for further prayer and reflection.

These exercises are based on the seven distinct reasons that people today choose to connect with the church.

Yearning	Blessing
Some people are trapped by addictions, self-destructive habits, or circumstances beyond their control.	They seek the intervention of a Higher Power to break them free and give them a fresh start.
Some people are broken physically, emotionally, mentally, or relationally and are not healthy.	They seek God as a Healer who can restore health and wholeness.
Some people are lonely and longing for absolute truths and authentic role models.	They seek God as a Perfect Companion who speaks the truth and models righteousness.
Some people are hopeless because they are aging, unfulfilled, and disappointed.	They seek God as a Promise Keeper who can give them joy & confidence for the days ahead.
Some people are forgotten by friends or family, and discarded by society.	They seek God as a Shepherd who will gather them in mutual support and belonging.
Some people are abused by unjust people, institutions, and evil powers.	They seek God as a Vindicator who can bring justice and restore self-esteem.
Some people are lost and without a moral compass or sense of purpose.	They seek God as a Spiritual Guide who can give them more direction and vocation.

Step #1:

My Perception of Our Experience of God

From your personal perspective, rate how powerfully our congregation experiences God's real presence in each of these seven ways. Use a scale of 1 ("Not at All") to 10 ("Perfectly"). Tip: High scores mean that a particular experience of Christ is *frequently* mentioned by church members in conversation, *frequently* shared in education and outreach programs, and *frequently* mentioned in internal church communications.

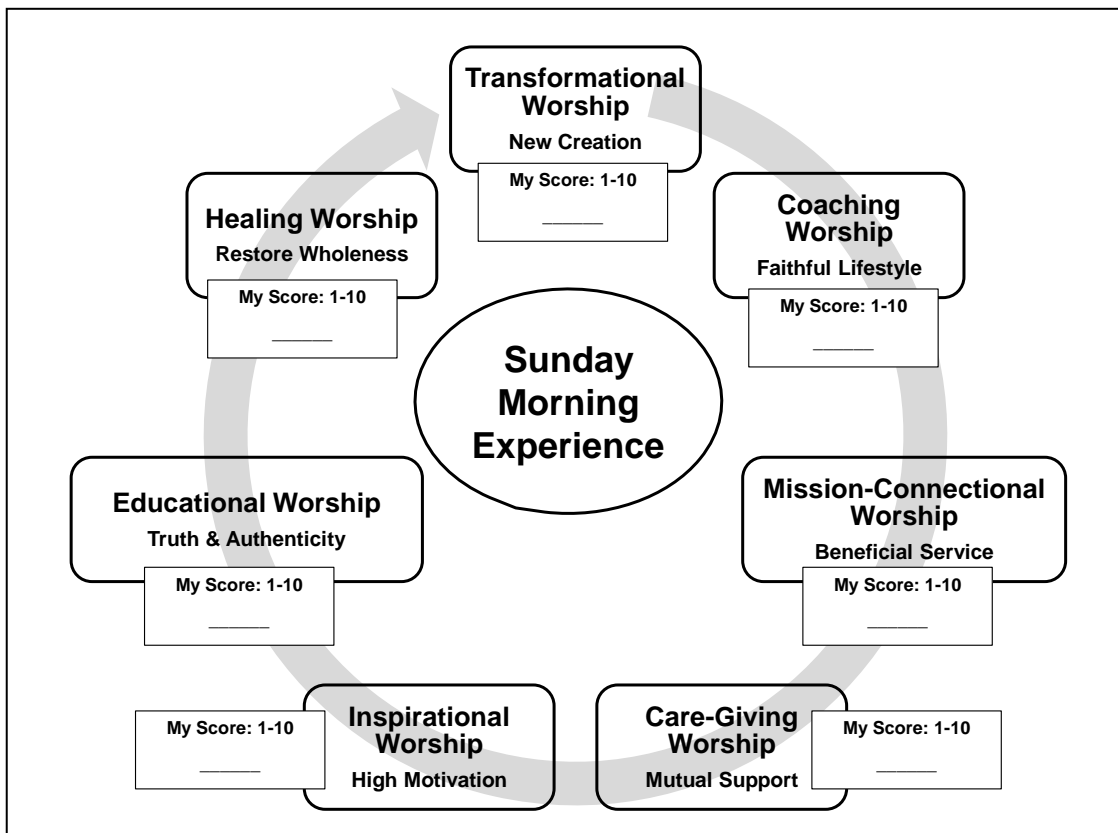
Experience of Christ

Higher Power Liberate the Trapped My Score: 1-10 _____	Spiritual Guide Direction for the Lost My Score: 1-10 _____
Healer Wholeness for the Broken My Score: 1-10 _____	Vindicator Justice for the Abused My Score: 1-10 _____
Perfect Companion Solidarity with the Saints My Score: 1-10 _____	Shepherd Gather the Strays My Score: 1-10 _____
Promise Keeper Hope for Tomorrow My Score: 1-10 _____	

Step #2:

My Perception of our Usual Worship Emphasis

From your personal perspective, rate how clearly our congregational worship emphasizes each of these characteristics. Use a scale of 1 (“Not at All”) to 10 (“Perfectly”). Tip: High scores mean that members *always* refer to worship in one or more of these ways; and that leaders *routinely* design worship to emphasize one or more of these characteristics; and that worshippers *frequently* compliment the pastor and worship leaders for these results.



Step #3:

My Perception of Our Church Reputation in the Community

From your personal perspective, rate how clearly our reputation in the community depends on these characteristics. Use a scale of 1 (“Not at All”) to 10 (“Perfectly”). Tip: High scores mean that the surrounding community *consistently refers* to us in this way; and that other churches *consistently compare* themselves to us in this way; and that groups who rent our building *consistently speak* of us in this way.

