



SPIRITUAL FORMATION ASSESSMENT

Cornerstone Bible Church

(Middlefield, OH)

December 5, 2025

Multiplying Disciples, Leaders, and Churches

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This summary is designed for Cornerstone Bible Church in Middlefield, OH, which had 141 respondents take the Spiritual Formation Assessment (SFA) in November 2025. Below are general survey results and an analysis of the data. It will also include ideas we pray will benefit your church as you seek to educate and disciple it for future ministry.

GENDER COMPARISON (Q. 3) – The gender breakdown for your report is 55% male and 45% female. This falls slightly outside of the U.S. average of 45.0% male and 55.0% female.

ETHNICITY (Q. 4) – Cornerstone reports 89.4% Caucasian (126 of 141 respondents), 5.7% Other, and a few other ethnicities. According to Mission Insite reporting, a 5-mile search around your church shows White (95.9%). *This may be a surprise, but CBC represents a more diverse community than the surrounding area. This should encourage the leadership of the church.*

RELATIONSHIP STATUS (Q. 5–6) – We see that almost 70% of respondents report being married (93 of 141 respondents), widowed (4 respondents), and divorced (2 respondents). Of those married, 38% have been married for over 30 years, 60.9% for over 20 years, and only 4.3% for less than 5 years. One of the most significant opportunities lies among the 29% who are single. *What are you doing, or could you do, to connect those who are newly married or seeking marriage with those who have been married for a long time?*

AGE (Q. 7) – The age segments at Cornerstone show significant diversity as you have people represented in every category. 30.4% of the congregation are over the age of 60, and 18.1% are 15 or under.

An Area to Rejoice: There is quite a healthy age diversity in a congregation of your size. How do the different generations work with each other? How are they spending time with each other? Are you leveraging this opportunity in a Titus 2 way? Carey Nieuwhof hosted a podcast on how different generations can work together. It may be worth a listen for you and your team.¹

SALVATION (Q. 9–11, 15) – About 89% of those who took the survey identify as having prayed to receive Jesus. It is encouraging to see that some know they are not following Jesus (1), while others are unsure (14). This creates an excellent opportunity for your church. There is some balance of when these salvations happened, with the 2010s leading the way (21.6%). Fourteen respondents say they have prayed to receive Christ in the last five years.

Only 9 of the respondents (7.8%) who professed Christ report that it was because of a person or ministry associated with your church, which is significantly lower than we normally see (19.1%). What would be a number you would be pleased to see in this? We see that 90.5% report being baptized after deciding to follow Christ. This could create an opportunity for you, as 11 respondents say they have not been baptized since professing faith.

¹ <https://careynieuwhof.com/episode527/>

DOCTRINE (Q. 16–20) – The church seems orthodox in some of the basic doctrinal views. The responses to the following questions prove this:

- a. Trinity – 99.1% believe in God in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- b. Jesus can forgive all sins – 100.0% believe Jesus can truly forgive anyone for all their sin.
- c. Certainty of Heaven – 98% say they are 100% certain they would go to heaven if they were to die today. This is higher than we normally see at 80.5%.
- d. Bible as the inspired Word – 99.1% believe the Bible is truly the inspired Word of God.
- e. Jesus as the only way – 100.0% responded that they believe Jesus is the only way for a person to go to heaven.

An Area to Rejoice: The people at Cornerstone have been taught the basics of salvation and biblical doctrine. The church has taken the calling to teach these basics seriously. It is obvious that the leadership of the church has held firm to the trustworthy Word and has taught sound doctrine regarding salvation.

CHURCH INVOLVEMENT (Q. 21–23) – We see many respondents have been at the church for more than 10 years (45.7%), and many have been attending recently (19.8% less than a year, and 25% from 2–4 years). I know things have changed in the past few years, and the hardships the church went through are evident here, as fewer than 10% have been there for 5 to 10 years. *What sorts of problems and blessings come with almost half the church being there long-term and half being newer?*

We also see that 84.5% of those at Cornerstone Bible Church came from another church, meaning that, over the years, about 15.5% report not attending church before coming to this church. This may not be the best news. While God has brought some unbelievers to your church, the majority have come from another church (whether good or bad churches). Those who are at CBC seem committed, as over 98.3% say they attend three or more times a month. Most research says that the national average is just under two times a month, even though most say they attend three or more times a month.

SIX AREAS OF SPIRITUAL FORMATION

1. Intimacy with God (Q. 24–29)

Cornerstone reports that 77.6% of the respondents spend five or more days a week in God’s Word. This is significantly higher than what we normally see (53.4%). When it comes to time alone in prayer, the results were slightly lower: 75% of those who pray five or more days a week. While lower than time in the Word, it’s still significantly higher than our average (57.9%).

Fasting may not seem to be a significant means of drawing close to the Lord, as only 13 respondents (11.2%) said they use it to do so. However, it is encouraging that your fasting percentage is higher than our national average at 9.53%.

Regarding spiritual intimacy, 81.9% say they feel close to the Lord (scored 7 or higher on a scale of 1 to 10).² This is significantly higher than what we normally see at 68.8%. There are 30 individuals (25.9%) who say there is something in their life that prevents them from drawing closer to the Lord; we normally see 30.7%. The highest responses to what are preventing them from following the Lord are . . .

- Lack of time (10 respondents)
- I'm struggling with a particular sin issue (9 respondents)
- Other (6 respondents)
- None of the Above (6 respondents)
- Marital Strife (3 respondents)

For the respondents who listed "other", they indicated the following reasons:

- Stress in School
- I'm struggling with the drive to complete tasks
- Selfishness
- Many suffering people in my life
- Submission
- Lack of commitment

An Area to Rejoice: The people at Cornerstone report higher percentages in all categories compared with our national averages. They report stronger spiritual disciplines (reading the Bible, prayer, fasting) and display vulnerability and openness in areas where they need to grow and deepen their relational intimacy with Christ.

2. SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY (Q. 30–34, 12)

When asked about a network of Christ-following friends, 81.1% report having very close relationships with seven or more. This is higher than what we normally see at 66.3%.

We see that 81.1% report that the relationships *on Sunday* help them draw closer to the Lord (7 or higher on a scale of 1 to 10). We usually see this figure at 67.6%. That number remains the same at 81.1% when answering the question of the community of believers *outside of Sunday* morning. This is one of the highest we have ever seen for this question, and I've never seen it the same as the question on Sundays.

Approximately 70.8% (higher than our average of 52.9%) say their community of believers challenges them to love and engage the lost (7 or higher). But then 82% (our average is also higher at 63.3%) would say their community of believers helps them grow in the fruit of the Spirit (7 or above).

Finally, we see that 79.3% report being in some small group with someone at the church. This is significantly higher than we usually observe at 51.8%, which may explain some of the answers of the

⁴ For those questions on a scale of 1 to 10, we look at a 7 or higher as an affirmative answer. If the survey reports less than 60% of those responding 7 or higher, it is a signal to stop and think through that issue.

spiritual community. *How do you encourage people to get together in smaller settings? How do you see this impacting the spiritual health of your people? How do you plan to maintain this level of commitment as the church grows?*

An Area to Rejoice: 81.1% say they have close relationships with other Christians. This is great and should be celebrated. An encouraging 79.3% are in some small group. What are you doing to encourage Christ-centered relationships?

3. REDEMPTIVE RELATIONSHIPS (Q. 35–37, 14)

The highest category is from those who have built three relationships with unbelievers in the past year (21.7%). We see that 14.2% report building zero relationships in the past year (we normally see this figure at 26.2%). We see a total of 44.3% saying they have built two or fewer relationships with unbelievers this past year. This is much lower than what we normally see at 58.9%. Of course, the number may indicate people's capacity for building relationships (introverted vs. extroverted).

When it comes to gospel conversations, only 22.6% indicate they have had five or more with unbelievers this past year. The largest group is those who have had zero conversations (about 17%).

To put things in perspective, about 47.2% of respondents say they have had two or fewer gospel conversations with unbelievers this past year (slightly lower than our average of 58.5%, which is good). The majority, at 68.9% report not leading anyone to the Lord in the past year. Four respondents report leading 10 or more people to the Lord this past year. I'd investigate that in some way as the other numbers do not support this.

Opportunity for Growth: This may not be a surprise to you, but evangelism and gospel witness are areas you may want to focus on for your church. One possible suggestion is accountability through *MyCircle Training*, which might help create the vision for reaching those your church already has relationships with in their lives.

We see that only 47.4% of your church says they are serving in their community. MyCircle Training can help take this involvement and see it lead to gospel conversations.

4. STEWARDSHIP OF LIFE (Q. 38–41)

Please note the chart below, which compares the results of the Stewardship of Life questions for Cornerstone Bible Church with the national averages we have observed (7 or higher on a scale of 1-10). The purpose is to see areas to celebrate and grow regarding the stewardship of life principles.

	<u>All Christians We Have Surveyed</u>	<u>Cornerstone Bible Church</u>
I personally live my life in a way that allows for my time to be used by God in whatever way that He demands of me.	43.0%	56.6%

I personally am living a life where my talents (spiritual gifts and abilities) are given fully to God so that He can use me as He sees fit.	48.7%	56.6%
I personally am living a life of integrity, where my treasure (tithes and offerings) is being given open-handedly and excitedly, so that God can use such offerings as He sees fit.	67.1%	65.1%
In sum, the way in which I am living my life is an example to others of living fully for the Lord with open hands for Him to have His way with me and the things that I can offer for His glory.	58.4%	67%

Opportunity for Growth: Most of the answers in this category exceed the national averages, but a few remain below the 60% target of 7 or more answers. In addition, the highest category is that people feel they are examples to others, which is over 10% higher than on a few of the other time-and-talent questions. There may be a disconnect here.

5. SPIRIT-GIFTEDNESS (Q. 42–46, 13-14)

When asked if they know their spiritual gifts, 76.4% report in the affirmative, meaning there are about one quarter of your church³ that would not know how the Lord has gifted them for the edification of the church. For those who are aware of their gifts:

- 64.6% would say they have an outlet in their local church to exercise them (7 or higher on a scale of 1 to 10). This is just above our average at 60.0%.
- 50% report (7 or higher) that they have an outlet to exercise these gifts outside of their church. This is above our average (44.0%).
- Only 31.7% state (7 or higher) that they know others with similar gifts, who they can work with for the greater kingdom. This is only slightly above what we normally see at 27.2%.
- As part of a summary question, 47.6% of respondents are satisfied (7 or higher) that their gifts are being used for the glory of God. This is just slightly above the national average we are seeing at 46.2%.

Opportunity for Growth: You have an incredible opportunity to help people serve in the church. It begins with helping them understand how God has gifted them and then helping them find fulfillment in that service. Less than half of those who know their gifts believe they are being used for God's glory. It may be an area you step into to help them see more clearly.

³ More if you consider those who skipped the question or are not sure of their salvation.

6. PERSONAL DISCIPLESHIP (Q. 47–52)

When asked about a personal discipleship relationship, 40.6% said they are in one (10.5%). This is significantly higher than we normally see (27.5%). Of those who are in this sort of a relationship:

- 59.5% report they are being held accountable to replicate this relationship with someone else; our average is 70.5%.
- 71.4% say they are excited about replicating this relationship (7 or higher on a scale of 1 to 10).
- 88.1% say this relationship is helping them grow as a follower of Jesus (7 or higher on a scale of 1 to 10). This is above our average of 81.0%.
- 66.7% say this relationship helps them as they build relationships with lost people (7 or higher on a scale of 1 to 10). We normally see this at 55.0%.
- 73.8% say they believe this relationship can be replicated (7 or higher on a scale of 1 to 10). We usually see this at a higher level of 81.3%.

An Area to Rejoice: Incredibly, over 40% of your people say they are in some form of discipleship relationship. This is much higher than we usually see.

Opportunity for Growth: What would it look like if 60% or 75% of Cornerstone Bible Church were in a personal discipleship relationship? How would that change the culture and look of the church?