

Strengths & Needs Matrix

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| What do we do well as a church? | What are the true needs of the community? |
| Where do the church strengths and community Needs intersect? | What opportunities do we see?* |

What opportunities do we see? In this box you want to list what possible ministry functions your church can carry out in the near and distant future to help meet the needs of the community.

Read how to use the strength worksheet on the following pages.

Using the Strength Matrix

The Strengths Worksheet or strengths matrix is designed to assist a church in realizing the church's potential to becoming a Great Commission church in reaching the community. The matrix has four squares or quadrants.

Start with the top left quadrant titled, "What Do We Do Well as a Church?"

I prefer to invite the entire church to participate in a meeting of what I call a strength's exercise for the church. In this meeting have the attendees participate in groups of no more than 8 per group. For smaller churches 20-50, I would have a limit of 5-6 per smaller group.

Ask each group to discuss what they believe to be the strengths of the church – What are we good at as a church? Ask them to be prepared to share two perceived strengths of the church. Allow 3-4 minutes for groups to discuss. Encourage each group to include every person in the discussion.

Call groups together and allow each group to give their two perceived strengths of the church. List these on a large tear sheet of paper or flip chart pad. (Save these for later use and reference) Save time and do not allow discussion of the strengths. Announce that you only want to list them at this point.

Next you want to look at each one of the posted perceived strengths individually asking for a consensus from the congregation if each strength is currently used as an inward or outward focused strength. Outward focused strengths must contribute to fulfilling the Great Commission. In a different color marker place an "O" beside all strengths that are being used as outward focused & helping fulfill the Great Commission. Place an "I" beside all strengths that are currently focused for the current members of the church. – MOST ALL of the strengths listed will be inward focused – for the current members only.

After this you will ask, can these strengths be outward focused to reach our community for Christ? Try to settle on three from the original list (or derivatives thereof) that can be strengths used to fulfill the Great Commission. Write these three in the top left quadrant on the strengths matrix.

The top right quadrant "True needs of the Community" is the next one to address. For this you need to actually get out in the community instead of guessing what the needs are. We have developed a 3 question survey that can be used in various ways: door to door (yes it works), at a community festival or parade, at church events, community leaders offices (mayor, police chief, school principal, etc.). You can download a copy of community needs survey at <https://alsbom.org/revitalization/> or at <http://soncare.net/reaching-the-summit-downloadable-resources/> The important thing is to get out in the community. After collecting and assessing the community needs list the top 2-3 needs in the top right quadrant.

In the third quadrant, the lower left, write where you see the two top quadrant intersecting.
Example: strength; Good cooks, community need; 75 children without food on weekends.

In the fourth quadrant list how you will use your strengths to help meet the needs of the community. Be certain you are listing ways you can not only meet community needs, but you will also implement fulfilling the Great Commission. What you write in this fourth, lower right quadrant is your action steps. These are the things you believe God has led you to by using your God-given strengths in meeting the real needs of the community.