

Poverty Quiz:

Answer True or False and why

1. The number of people living in U.S. poverty decreased in 2003.
2. Most Americans could get out of poverty if they only had a job.
3. Asian Americans experienced the greatest increase in poverty.
4. The government says that a family of four is poor if it earns less than \$35,000 annually.
5. The "working poor" in America are growing even poorer.
6. The rate of child poverty in America is higher than it is in most of the world's industrialized countries.
7. The federal minimum wage is now \$5.15 per hour.
8. The elderly poverty rate is higher than any other age group.

Single Adult Ministry Survey

(Circle) Male Female

1. Describe your Occupation

- Professional (specify)
- Clerical
- Managerial
- Service Oriented

2. Current status:(check all that apply)

- Never-married
- Single-parent with primary custody
- Single-parent
- Widow/Widower
- Divorced
- Separated

3. Check all that apply:

- I live with my child/children who are ages _____.
- I live with my parent(s).
- I live with roommate(s).
- I live alone.

4. Age group:

- Under 20 20s 30s 40s 50s 60s over 70

5. Church participation:(Check all that apply)

- I regularly attend church.
- I regularly attend a Sunday School class.
- I am a church member.
- I regularly attend a Bible Study. (Specify)
- I am a member of or regularly attend another church.(Specify)
- I receive information about Single Adult Ministries.
- I would like to receive information about Single Adult Ministries.

If checked, please provide:

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP CODE

HOME PHONE

EMAIL

6. Please check any of the following you would most likely attend:

- Divorce Recovery
- Goal Setting/Life Planning
- Grief Recovery
- Health/Dieting
- Job Transition/Career Change
- Leadership Training
- Legal Issues
- Marriage Preparation
- Mission Trips
- Personal Financial Planning
- Relationship Issues
- Remarriage
- Service Projects
- Sexuality/Intimacy
- Single-parenting
- Spiritual Growth
- Stepfamilies
- Stress Management
- Time Management
- Other (specify) _____

7. What do you think the purpose of a single adult group should be?

8. How could Single Adult Ministries best meet your needs?

9. With your needs in mind, are there any other comments or insights we could benefit from as Single Adult Ministries is developed?

10. Identify five issues single adults face today.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

11. Please check any of the following activities you would participate in:

- Basketball
- Bicycle ride/trips
- Board games
- Bowling
- Canoe/white water rafting
- Christmas caroling
- Christmas party
- Cookouts
- Dessert after evening service

- Dinner drama theaters
- Hayride
- Holiday dinners
- Holiday picnics (Memorial Day, July 4, Labor Day)
- Horseback riding
- Ice skating
- Ladies Night out
- Men's Night out
- Monthly Breakfast (specify day _____)
- Monthly lunch following service
- New Year s Eve Party
- New Year s Day Party
- Picnics
- Prayer breakfasts (specify day _____)
- Progressive dinners
- Retreats
- Roller skating
- Saturday day trips (suggested destinations _____)
- Scavenger Hunt
- Ski trips
- State Fair Day
- Tailgate party
- Other ideas

12. I have the following talents (music instruments, drama, etc.)

13. I have the following skills (mechanical, maintenance, computer, etc.)

14. Do you have questions you would like answered regarding the plan of salvation or a personal relation- ship with Jesus? _____

Would you like for someone to contact you to set a appointment to discuss them? _____

If yes, please indicate best times to contact you.

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey.
Your answers will help the church to better meet your needs.**

Church Assessment: Discussion

1. How does wealth (or lack of it) seem to affect the relationships people have at church?
2. Are most people at church of the same socio-economic background?
3. Are church leaders selected on the basis of their financial status?
4. Name the top three restaurants groups of people from church will choose to eat at together:
5. How much does it cost to go on the church retreat? Church camp? Seminars? Is there assistance available for those who can't pay?
6. What is the dress code at church? How do the majority of people dress on Sunday morning? Formal or informal? Does everyone dress similarly?
7. Are there as many opportunities for fellowship for those who are single as there are for those who are married?
8. Are small groups comprised of couples? Is there an option for an all ladies' one? A singles' one?
9. Would a single mother feel looked down upon or judged by the people of your church? Would she find fellowship?
10. Is your church schedule consistent: times, order of service, weekly events?

11. Are schedule changes announced well in advance?

12. Would someone who was homeless or mentally ill feel comfortable participating in Sunday School at your church?

13. Is there any way for people to get to church who cannot drive or walk?

14. Is your building handicap accessible?

Group Discussion

Read over these scenarios and brainstorm about how to handle each situation. List the specific needs you will want to address. Also brainstorm about what *not* to do and why. We will discuss everyone's answers as a group.

Scenario 1:

During a church potluck, a lady at your table begins to share with the group that she struggles with homosexuality. She wonders, "Why did God make me like this and then forbid it? Where is the place for intimacy with another person in my life?"

This woman is a newcomer. She does not have a church background, but she has come to faith. How do you respond to her?

Scenario 2:

A man in the community has contacted your church. He is very interested in attending, but he has no way to get there. He does not drive, does not get around easily by himself, and lives in a group home due to his schizophrenia.

What can be done for this man? If he does come, how will your church welcome him and address his needs best?

Scenario 3:

You're teaching Sunday School to a group of ten people. One of the ladies in the group is autistic. As you teach, he will sometimes burst out with comments that may or may not be relevant to the lesson. How do you handle it?

Scenario 4:

The local homeless shelter is going to be busing in men who are interested in attending your church. Will they be welcome? How will the way others dress make them feel? How can they best be incorporated into the community?

Homework Options

I. INTERVIEW

Option 1:

Volunteer to serve a meal at the local Rescue Mission. Eat with the people you help serve and ask them if they wouldn't mind answering a question for your homework project. Then ask them to describe what their ideal church would be like. Also attend their religious service if they conduct one. What was it like? How do they intentionally connect with them?

Option 2:

Do your laundry at a local Laundromat. Chat with other customers until you come across a single mother. Ask her what she looks for in a church. How can the church best minister to her? Does she currently have a church? If so, what are the elements that drew her to it? What are the turn-offs about church, if she has any?

Option 3:

Interview someone you know who is homebound or lives in a nursing home. Ask them how the church can minister to them. Would they like to receive tapes of services? Regular communion? Does anyone visit them regularly? Would they be interested (if capable) in hosting a small group (if homebound)?

Write up your observations in a two page paper. Comment on what you learned, how you felt about the experience, and how you felt it could have gone better (if applicable). In your estimation, how could your church best minister to those you interviewed?

II. BOOK REPORT

Choose from the list, read, and do a five page book report.

Amos, William E. *When AIDS Comes to Church*. Philadelphia: The Westminster Press, 1988.

Howe, Michele. *Going it Alone: Meeting the Challenges of Being a Single Mom*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1999.

Ransom, Judy Griffith. *The Courage to Care: Seven Families Touched by Disability and Congregational Caring*. Nashville: Upper Room Books, 1994.

Vander Broek, Lyle D. *Breaking Barriers: The Possibilities of Christian Community in a Lonely World*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2002.