The Spiritual Life Story of

Church ABC

February 2022

RENOVO
INSIGHT THAT ELEVATES

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Prologue:
Understanding Your Report

Goal: To start with an overview of how to view and interpret the spiritual life story of your church

God's First Question

God's first question appears in Genesis 3:9 when He asks Adam,

Where are you?

He's not asking about Adam's physical location. Instead he's probing Adam's shame and confusion resulting from his disobedience by asking, "Where are you, Adam, (inferring) *in relationship to me*?"

This Scripture is the hallmark of the Spiritual Life Inventory because it reflects the heart of the survey's two goals:

- In the *Congregant Profile*, **to answer God's first question for your congregation** to give you a snapshot of their spiritual health.

- In the *Church Profile*, **to identify high-potential opportunities for the church** to help deepen their relationship with God.

Two Pieces of Advice

#1 - Remember that this is more about your people than your church

When they first came to your church, your congregants brought with them a lifetime of spiritual experiences, biases, beliefs, and habits that had *nothing* to do with you. The intent of this survey is to measure the impact of their spiritual history, plus their experiences with your church, on their current relationship with God.

#2 - Find your story in the numbers

This report contains many numbers. Please don't get bogged down by them. Look instead for themes—the one or two big issues reinforced across multiple slides that will catapult the spiritual growth of your people if you address them.

How to Find Your Story in the Numbers

We compared your results with the 1500+ churches that have taken the survey since 2008. To help you find your story in the numbers, we report the results of this comparison using the following format:

Red = Way Below Average

An item highlighted in red means your church's response is significantly below average, ranking in the bottom 10% of churches.

Yellow = Below Average

An item highlighted in yellow means your church's response is somewhat below average, ranking in the bottom 25% of churches.

White = Average

An item in white means your church's response is average, ranking in the middle 50% of churches.

Green = Above Average

An item highlighted in green means your church's response is above average, ranking in the top 25% of churches.

For this report, the shading is based on a comparison of churches with attendance of more than 250 who have taken the Spiritual Life Inventory.

Chapter 1:
Background & Demographics

Goal: For you to get a picture of who responded to the Spiritual Life Inventory.

God's First Question

Pages 9 and 10

There are two criteria that determine whether or not your findings are reliable:

1. **Response rate** (percentage of responses compared with weekend adult attendance):

   - Individual church responses range from 5%-75% of weekend attendance with the average around 40%
   - For smaller churches, the response rate should be greater than 50%.
   - For larger churches, a good response rate is between 20–30%.

   Church ABC responses = 400 (40% of your average adult weekend attendance)

2. Demographics

   - Regardless of your response rate, you should review the demographic profile (page 9) and your church tenure/activity profile (page 10) to confirm that your sample is reflective of your congregation.

Church ABC
Demographics

Demographics	
Base Size	400
Age 19-29	5% y
Age 30-49	11% r
Age 50+	84% g
Diversity: Non White, including Hispanics	5%
Children under 18 at home	13% r
Married	82%
Income under $30K	13%
Income $30K-$74,999	40%
Income $75K or more	47%

r	Way Below Average
y	Below Average
	Average
g	Above Average

Church Tenure	
Base Size	400
Less than one year	5%
One to five years	34%
Six to ten years	19%
More than ten years	42%

r	Way Below Average
y	Below Average
	Average
g	Above Average

Chapter 2: Spiritual Journey

Goal: For you to get a broad understanding of …

Where are you?
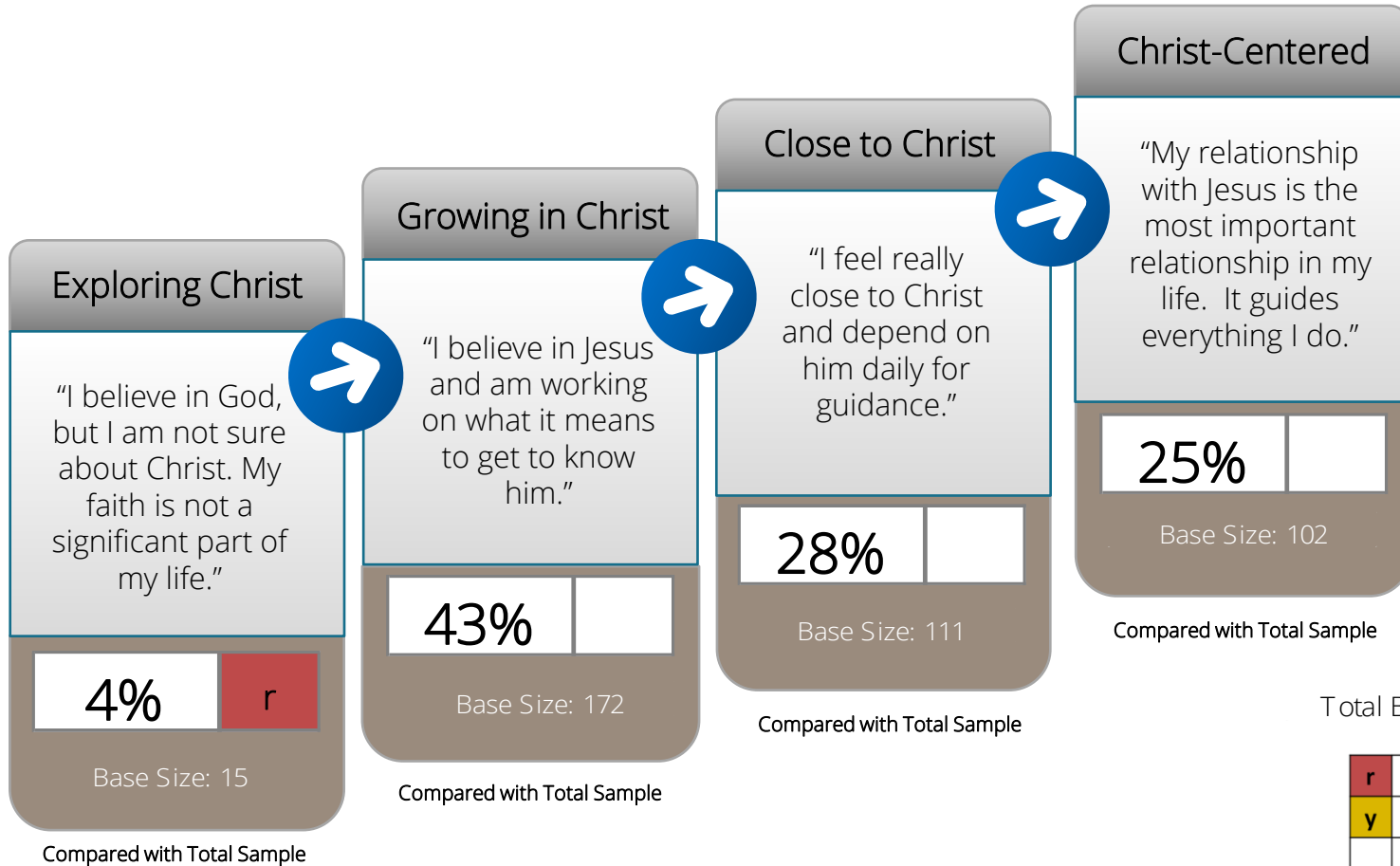
Spiritual Continuum Profile

The following chart profiles your church's spiritual continuum. If you see "green", "yellow" or "red" indicators, it means that there are more or less of your congregation in that particular segment than the total sample.

These four segments were identified in the original survey research work.

We have tested this "spiritual continuum" in more than 2,000 churches across a diversity of church sizes, denominations and geographies. We have found that these four segments exist in every congregation.
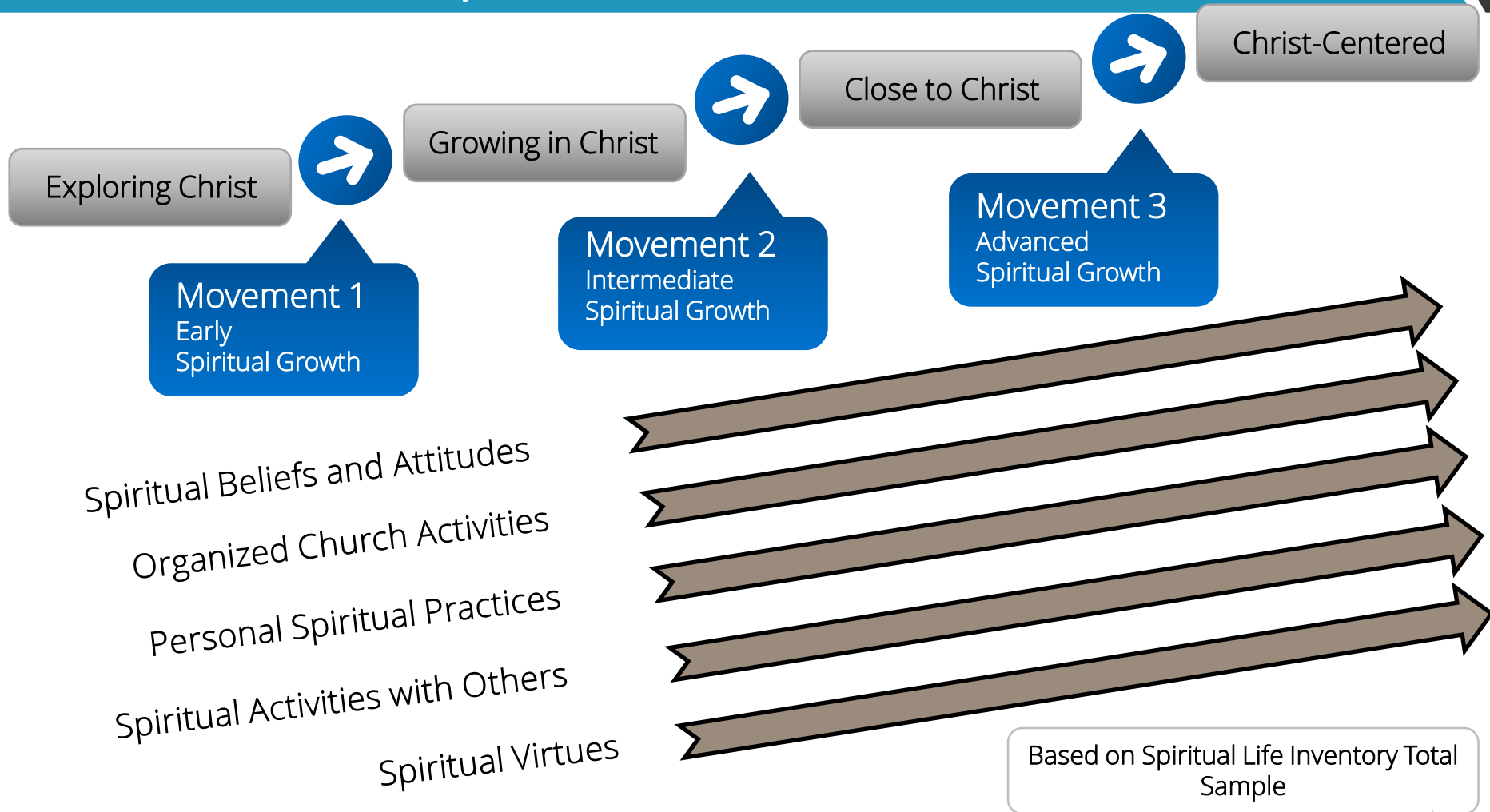
Spiritual Continuum Profile

Exploring Christ

"I believe in God, but I am not sure about Christ. My faith is not a significant part of my life."

| 4% | r |

Base Size: 15

Compared with Total Sample

Growing in Christ

"I believe in Jesus and am working on what it means to get to know him."

| 43% | |

Base Size: 172

Compared with Total Sample

Close to Christ

"I feel really close to Christ and depend on him daily for guidance."

| 28% | |

Base Size: 111

Compared with Total Sample

Christ-Centered

"My relationship with Jesus is the most important relationship in my life. It guides everything I do."

| 25% | |

Base Size: 102

Compared with Total Sample

Total Base Size: 400

r	Way Below Average
y	Below Average
	Average
g	Above Average

Five Categories of Spiritual Catalysts That Advance Spiritual Growth

Exploring Christ

Growing in Christ

Close to Christ

Christ-Centered

Movement 1
Early Spiritual Growth

Movement 2
Intermediate Spiritual Growth

Movement 3
Advanced Spiritual Growth

Spiritual Beliefs and Attitudes

Organized Church Activities

Personal Spiritual Practices

Spiritual Activities with Others

Spiritual Virtues

Based on Spiritual Life Inventory Total Sample

Chapter 3: Spiritual Beliefs

Goal: For you to get a better understanding of how spiritual beliefs are catalytic to movement from Exploring Christ to Growing in Christ, Close to Christ, and Christ-Centered.

Spiritual Beliefs and Attitudes

Page 17

This chart is crucial to understanding how your congregants are doing in their journey to developing a relationship with Christ. Here are a few things to consider:

- Belief in Salvation by Grace and the Trinity are critical spiritual growth catalysts for those who are Exploring Christ.

- Belief in a Personal God is the most influential catalyst for those who are Growing in Christ.

- Belief in the Authority of the Bible is very important for those who are Close to Christ or Christ-Centered.

- The "Giving Away My Life" attitude provides **the best single measure in the entire report** for a congregation's spiritual momentum.
  - Strong responses indicate significant momentum; weak responses indicate a more passive spiritual culture.

Note: We include a more detailed description of the origin and the actual wording of the statements on this chart in the Appendix at the end of this report.

Church ABC's
Spiritual Beliefs & Attitudes

Key Spiritual Beliefs (% that very strongly agree)	Total	Exploring Christ	Growing in Christ	Close to Christ	Christ-Centered
Base Size	400	15[#]	172	111	102
Salvation by Grace	64%	27%[#]	52%	69% y	82% y
Trinity	85%	47%[#]	81% y	88% y	95% y
Authority of the Bible	51%	13%[#]	34%	59%	75% y
Personal God	71%	20%[#]	54%	84% g	93%
Identity in Christ	59%	27%[#]	42%	63%	87%
Church	20% y	0%[#]	18% y	19% r	27% y
Humanity	77%	47%[#]	70%	83%	87% y
Compassion	48% g	13%[#]	35% g	52% g	71% g
Eternity	39% y	0%[#]	28% y	46% y	56% y
Christ is First	59%	0%[#]	42%	67%	89%
Biblical Community	21%	7%[#]	12%	22%	36%
Stewardship	37%	0%[#]	27%	41%	56%
Spiritual Gifts	24% g	0%[#]	11% g	28% g	44% g
Giving Away My Life	23%	0%[#]	10%	20%	52%

[#] Low sample size

See "CLP Beliefs and Attitudes" slide in Appendix for details on each belief

r	Way Below Average
y	Below Average
	Average
g	Above Average

Chapter 4: Organized Church Activities

Organized Church Activities

Pages 20 and 21

Here are a few things to consider:

1. Church activities are critical spiritual growth catalysts for those who are Growing in Christ.

2. The pronounced shift to higher levels of participation in weekend services, small groups, and serving suggests that those who are Growing in Christ count on the church to be their spiritual coach.

Church ABC's
Participation with Organized Church Activities

Participation	Total		Exploring Christ	Growing in Christ	Close to Christ	Christ-Centered
Base Size	400		15[#]	172	111	102
Weekend Services *(3 to 4 times per month)*	91%		79%[#]	88%	95% g	92%
Small Groups *(1 to 2 times a month or more)*	62% g		33%[#]	59% g	66%	65%
Serving at the Church *(1 to 2 times a month or more)*	61% g		20%[#]	55%	68%	69%
Serving Those in Need Through my Church *(1 to 2 times a month or more)*	45% g		20%[#]	37% g	52% g	54% g

[#] Low sample size

r	Way Below Average
y	Below Average
	Average
g	Above Average

Church ABC's
Satisfaction with Organized Church Activities

Satisfaction		Total		Exploring Christ	Growing in Christ	Close to Christ	Christ-Centered
Weekend Services	Base Size	384		14[#]	162	108	100
	Top 2 Box *(Percent)*	71%		71%[#]	75%	71%	62%
Church Helping Develop Spiritual Relationships *	Base Size	400		15[#]	172	111	102
	Top 2 Box *(Percent)*	50%		40%[#]	48%	53%	50%
Serving at the Church	Base Size	400		15[#]	172	111	102
	Top 2 Box *(Percent)*	51%		40%[#]	45%	52%	62%
Serving Those in Need Through my Church	Base Size	400		15[#]	172	111	102
	Top 2 Box *(Percent)*	49%		47%[#]	45%	50%	55%

[#] Low sample size

Note: (*) No database comparison available at this time.

r	Way Below Average
y	Below Average
	Average
g	Above Average

Chapter 5: Spiritual Practices

Goal: For you to get a better understanding of how spiritual practices are catalytic to movement from Exploring Christ to Growing in Christ, Close to Christ, and Christ-Centered.

Personal Spiritual Practices

Page 24

It would be hard to overstate the power of personal spiritual practices to catalyze transformation. The more time and energy people invest in these channels of communication with God, the more fruit is born in virtually every dimension of spiritual life. Specifically, there are three critical factors to consider based on the following chart:

#1: Reflection on Scripture is the most influential catalyst of spiritual growth. This means it is not only the most influential spiritual practice; it is also the *only* catalyst that ranks in the top five for every movement across the spiritual continuum.

#2: Prayer to Confess Sins is particularly significant for those in the more mature spiritual segments. Higher responses reflect increasing intentional efforts to deal with obstacles that get in the way of becoming more Christ-like.

#3: Higher tithing responses are directly linked to strong agreement with belief in the authority of the Bible (people will financially support God's work out of obedience, whether or not they're happy with the church).
   -Also note that it's possible to see higher tithing percentages on the survey than your church experiences because people tend to overstate their contributions, but know that the comparative churches experience the same bias.

Church ABC's
Personal Spiritual Practices

Personal Spiritual Practices	Total		Exploring Christ	Growing in Christ	Close to Christ	Christ-Centered
Base Size	400		15 #	172	111	102
Reflection on Scripture *(daily)*	31% g		0% #	16% g	32% g	60% g
Bible Reading *(daily)*	32% g		7% #	18% g	32% g	59% g
Prayer for Others * *(daily)*	59%		20% #	44%	74%	75%
Prayer to Give Thanks to God * *(daily)*	71%		40% #	57%	86%	84%
Prayer to Express Love of God * *(daily)*	59%		20% #	40%	77%	77%
Prayer to Confess Sins *(daily)*	41% g		13% #	26%	53% g	57%
Prayer to Praise God's Greatness * *(daily)*	54%		13% #	39%	68%	71%
Prayer to Seek Guidance *(daily)*	56% g		27% #	41% g	68% g	74%
Solitude *(several times per week or more)*	67% g		27% #	52% g	81% g	80% g
Tithing *(10% or more)*	39%		20% #	30%	42%	52%

Low sample size

r	Way Below Average
y	Below Average
	Average
g	Above Average

Note: (*) No database comparison available at this time.

Chapter 6: Spiritual Activities with Others

Goal: For you to get a better understanding of how spiritual relationships are catalytic to movement from Exploring Christ to Growing in Christ, Close to Christ, and Christ-Centered.

Spiritual Activities with Others

Page 27

These activities reflect the level of faith-based risk-taking your congregants exhibit outside of organized church activities. Whether they are talking about their spiritual lives with a friend or mentor, or talking about their faith with a non-Christian, they are deciding on some level to "go public" about their relationship with Christ. Two factors are particularly noteworthy:

#1: Evangelism emerges as a significant catalyst of growth for the Close to Christ segment.

#2: Higher responses to connecting with Spiritual Friends and Spiritual Mentors tend to appear when churches have strong small group systems.

Participation in Key Spiritual Activities With Others Church ABC

Spiritual Activities with Others	Total	Exploring Christ	Growing in Christ	Close to Christ	Christ-Centered
Base Size	400	15 [#]	172	111	102
Spiritual Friendships *(once or more per month)*	63% g	33% [#]	51% g	71% g	78% g
Evangelism *(6+ conversations per year)*	29% g	27% [#]	19% g	32% g	42% g
Serving those in need on my own *(once or more per month)*	55% g	47% [#]	41% g	64% g	72% g
Spiritual Mentors *(once or more per month)*	37% g	13% [#]	23%	42% g	57% g
Help Others Grow * *(once or more per month)*	34%	20%	21%	39%	53%

[#] Low sample size

r	Way Below Average
y	Below Average
	Average
g	Above Average

Note: (*) No database comparison available at this time.

Spiritual Virtues

Page 29

Virtues are the ultimate manifestation of what we need to be...expressions of Christlikeness. Here are a few things to consider:

➢ Virtues:

- Peace, Love and Joy are those virtues that begin to first emerge in those people in the early stages of spiritual growth

- Virtues like patience, self control and gentleness continue to challenge people who are even Christ-Centered. It truly shows us that there is no end to one's need to draw closer to Jesus.

Church ABC's
Spiritual Virtues

Virtues/Faith in Action Attitudes (% that very strongly agree)	Total	Exploring Christ	Growing in Christ	Close to Christ	Christ-Centered
Base Size	400	15[#]	172	111	102
Love *	32%	7%[#]	19%	41%	49%
Joy *	16%	0%[#]	9%	20%	26%
Peace *	25%	7%[#]	16%	29%	39%
Patience *	13%	13%[#]	11%	11%	19%
Kindness *	30%	20%[#]	23%	32%	40%
Faithfulness *	22%	13%[#]	9%	26%	41%
Gentleness *	19%	27%[#]	18%	19%	20%
Self-Control *	13%	7%[#]	11%	12%	17%
Hope *	51%	33%[#]	33%	60%	73%
Humility *	43%	27%[#]	33%	50%	54%
Spiritual Gifts	24% g	0%[#]	11% g	28% g	44% g
Giving Away My Life	23%	0%[#]	10%	20%	52%

[#] Low sample size

See "CLP Virtues" slide in Appendix for details on each virtue

r	Way Below Average
y	Below Average
	Average
g	Above Average

Note: (*) No database comparison available at this time.

Spiritually Stalled

Page 31

Being spiritually stalled is not an unusual circumstance. In fact, over 90% of the people who have taken this survey report that they stalled at some point in their spiritual journey.
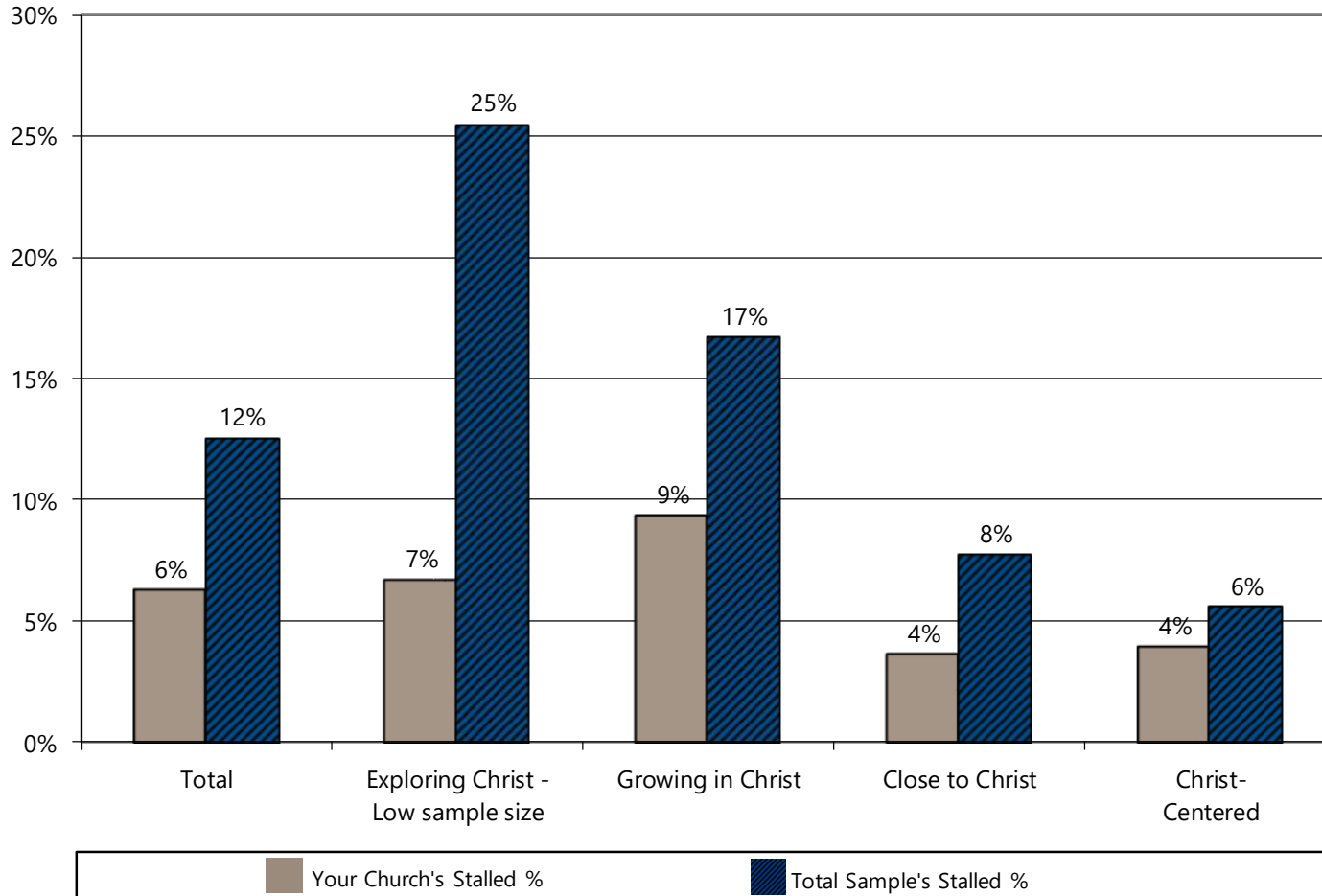
Typically one out of eight people in every congregation (12-13%) report that they are currently stalled. Stalled people exist in every segment, but the majority comes from the less mature side of the continuum.

Why do they stall?
- By far the number one reason people say they stall is that they lacked discipline in personal spiritual practices.

- They often fall away from spiritual practices due to the hectic pace of life. Other activities and conflicting responsibilities get in the way.

Church ABC's
Stalled Profile

	Total	Exploring Christ - Low sample size	Growing in Christ	Close to Christ	Christ-Centered
Your Church's Stalled %	6%	7%	9%	4%	4%
Total Sample's Stalled %	12%	25%	17%	8%	6%

Legend: ■ Your Church's Stalled % ■ Total Sample's Stalled %

Based on your church sample size of 400

Chapter 7: Church Profile

Goal: To identify high-potential opportunities for the church to help deepen your congregation's relationship with God.

Spiritual Life Inventory
Five Best Practice Principles

The Spiritual Life Inventory research has enabled us to identify "Best Practice" churches – churches that excel at helping their people grow in their love of God and others. These churches at the top 5% of the Spiritual Life Inventory database are incredibly different.
From the small to the large; from the rural countryside to the inner-city; from the East coast to the West coast. But what is more striking is the common ground they share in their ability to promote spiritual growth – all of them follow the same five principles.

Get People Moving

Embed the Bible

Heart of Core Team Leaders

Create Ownership

Do you go to church?

No, I am the church.

Pastor the Community
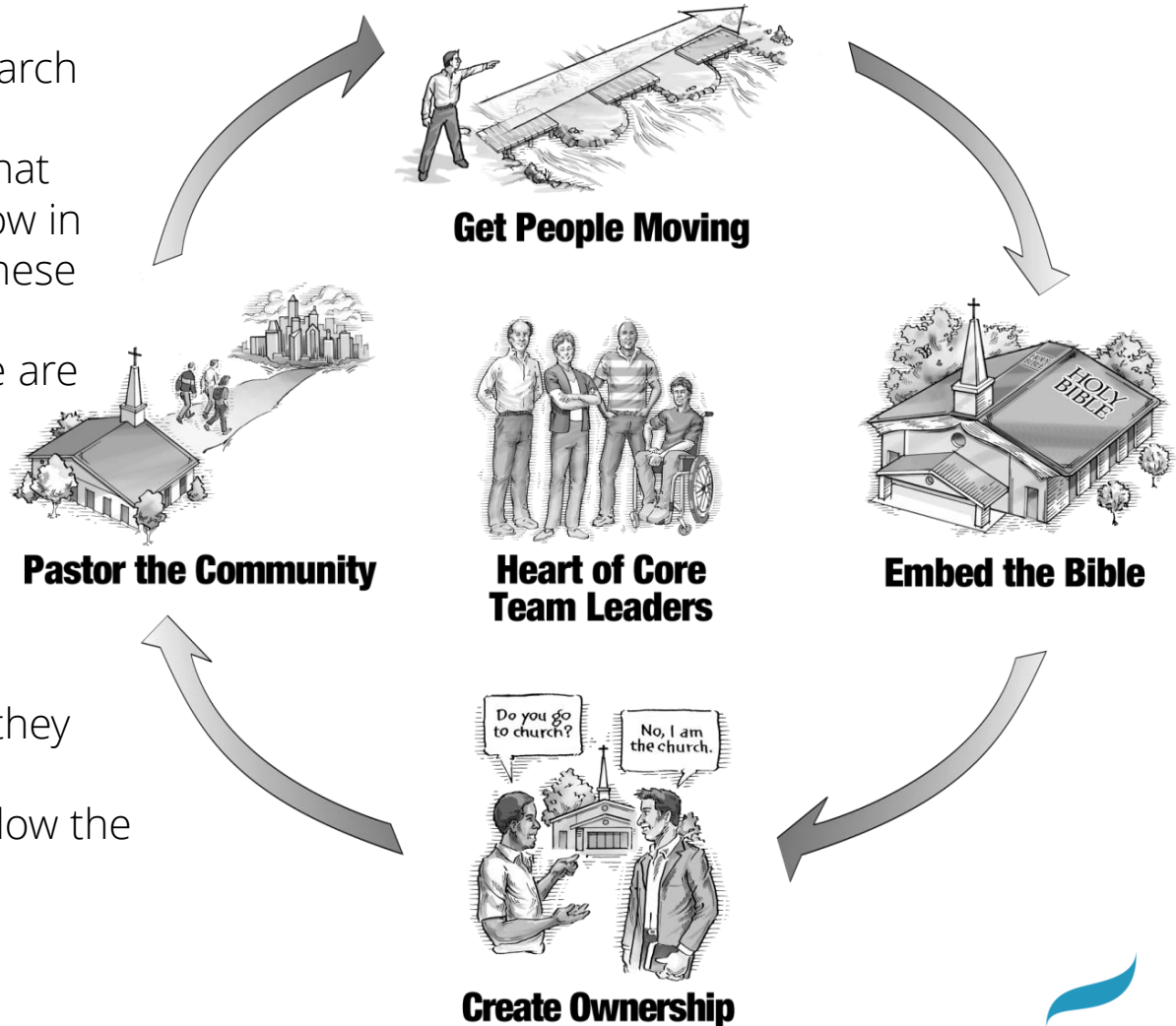
Characteristics of Best Practice Principles

Based on a thorough review of the top churches, there are three key characteristics that drive each of the "Best Practice" principles.

Get People Moving
1. Jumpstart People on a Spiritual Path
2. Make It Clear Your Goal is Disciple Making
3. Make Senior Church Leaders the Champions

Pastor the Community
1. Set High Expectations
2. Build a Bridge to the Community
3. Make Serving a Launchpad for the Gospel

Heart of the Core Leadership Team
1. Give Credit to God
2. Model a Surrendered Life
3. Focus more on Transformation than Attendance

Embed the Bible
1. Make Bible Application the Message Focus
2. Help People Engage with Scripture Everyday
3. Model Scripture as Church's DNA

Create Ownership
1. Empower People to Be the Church
2. Equip Them for Significant Roles
3. Hold Them Accountable

How to Find Your Story in the Numbers

The following five slides represent the results of the "Best Practice" Principles looked at through the lens of your church. The survey uses a number of factors to measure your church's progress for each principle. An example of a factor is "Church leaders model and consistently reinforce how to grow spiritually."

A Priority Score is calculated for each factor based on your congregants' point of view on importance and satisfaction. Your Priority Scores are then compared to the benchmark database to determine the level of urgency expressed by your congregations.

Red = Great Urgency

Yellow = Concern but not great urgency

White = Not much of a concern

Green = Not a concern at all

Note: For a more in-depth explanation of the Priority Score, please see page 58 in the Appendix, and to view all the mean importance and satisfaction scores for each factor see the Appendix pages 59 and 60.

Church ABC

Heart of Core Team Leaders

Three Characteristics:

1. Give Credit to God.
2. Model a Surrendered Life.
3. Focus on Transformation, Not Attendance

r	Great Urgency
y	Concern but Not Great Urgency
	Not Much of a Concern
g	Not a Concern At All

A1: Helps me develop a relationship with Jesus Christ	**2.7 g**
A2: Challenges me to grow and take next steps spiritually	**2.6 g**
A3: Church leaders model and consistently reinforce how to grow spiritually	2.9
A4: Church leaders are authentic about their struggles	**1.8 g**
A5: Church leaders maintain harmony, handle troublemakers and avert problems	1.8

Church ABC
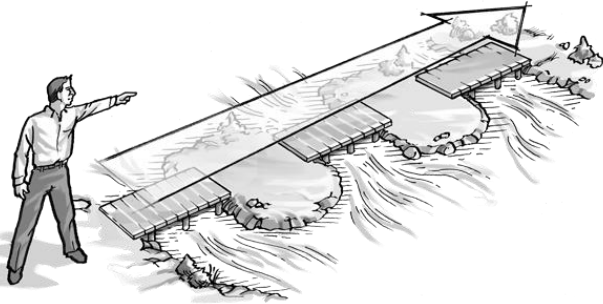
Get People Moving

Three Characteristics:

1. Jumpstart People on a Spiritual Path
2. Make It Clear Your Goal is Disciple Making
3. Make Senior Church Leaders the Champions

B1: Provides a clear pathway that helps guide my spiritual growth	2.6 g
B2: Encourages me to take personal responsibility for my own spiritual growth	2.5
B3: Prioritizes my spiritual growth over my church membership	2.9
B4: Senior church leaders are actively engaged in helping people get started on their spiritual growth	3.5

r	Great Urgency
y	Concern but Not Great Urgency
	Not Much of a Concern
g	Not a Concern At All

Church ABC
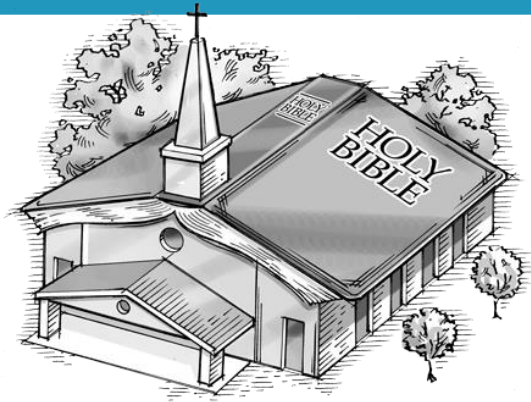
Embed the Bible

Three Characteristics:

1. Make Bible Application the Message Focus
2. Help People Engage with Scripture Everyday
3. Model Scripture as Church's DNA

r	Great Urgency
y	Concern but Not Great Urgency
	Not Much of a Concern
g	Not a Concern At All

C1: Helps me understand the Bible in greater depth	2.6 g
C2: Helps me develop a prayer life that connects me with God regularly	3.4 g
C3: Church teachers provide sound doctrine rooted in Biblical accuracy	2.0
C4: Provides a worship service that is challenging and thought provoking	2.7 g
C5: Consistently challenges me to engage with Scripture in new and interesting ways	2.6 g
C6: Scripture engagement is part of every experience people have at our church	2.6 g

Church ABC

Do you go to church?

No, I am the church.
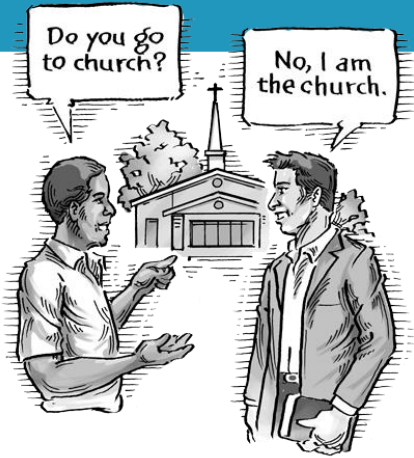
Create Ownership

Three Characteristics:

1. Empower People to Be the Church
2. Equip Them for Significant Roles
3. Hold Them Accountable

r	Great Urgency
y	Concern but Not Great Urgency
	Not Much of a Concern
g	Not a Concern At All

D1: Helps me in my time of emotional need	**2.9 g**
D2: Helps me develop relationships that encourage accountability	**2.6 g**
D3: Helps me feel like I belong	**2.3 g**
D4: Provides opportunities to grow spiritually through relationships with others	**2.1 g**
D5: Sets clear expectations about what it means to be part of the church	2.4
D6: Inspires such a sense of ownership that the church becomes an important part of who I am	2.1

Church ABC
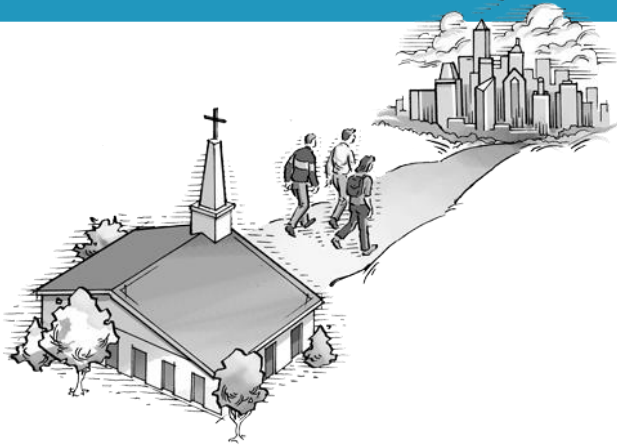
Pastor the Community

Three Characteristics:

1. Set High Expectations
2. Build a Bridge to the Community
3. Make Serving a Launchpad for the Gospel

r	Great Urgency
y	Concern but Not Great Urgency
	Not Much of a Concern
g	Not a Concern At All

E1: Provides opportunities for me to serve those in need	1.3
E2: Promotes a strong serving culture that is widely recognized by the local community	1.4
E3: Empowers me to go out "on my own" to make a significant impact in the lives of others	1.9 g
E4: Allows me to use and develop my spiritual gifts	2.3
E5: Provides training in how to share the gospel while serving those in need	4.1 r
E6: Church leaders are a recognized voice on important local community issues	1.4 y

Satisfaction

Pages 42, 43, 44, and 45

Every congregation also includes people who express some level of dissatisfaction with "*the church's role in my spiritual growth*". The average is 17%, although numbers vary widely, from low single-digits to almost half the congregation.

To shed light on what causes dissatisfaction, the chart on page 44 uses the Priority Score calculations to highlight the top 5 priorities for the dissatisfied people in your congregation, In other words out of all twenty-six factors assessed in the survey, these are the five areas of greatest concern for those who are dissatisfied.

Note: For a more in-depth explanation of the Priority Score, please see the Appendix page 58.

Overall Satisfaction
Church ABC

Spiritual Continuum Segment	Overall Satisfaction with the Church's Role in Spiritual Growth (top two boxes)	Overall Satisfaction with the Church's Leadership Team Helping with Spiritual Growth * (top two boxes)
Total	67% g	59%
Exploring Christ	67% #	60% #
Growing in Christ	62% g	60%
Close to Christ	71% g	59%
Christ-Centered	70% g	57%
# Low sample size		

r	Way Below Average
y	Below Average
	Average
g	Above Average

Note: (*) No database comparison.

Church ABC's
Dissatisfied Profile
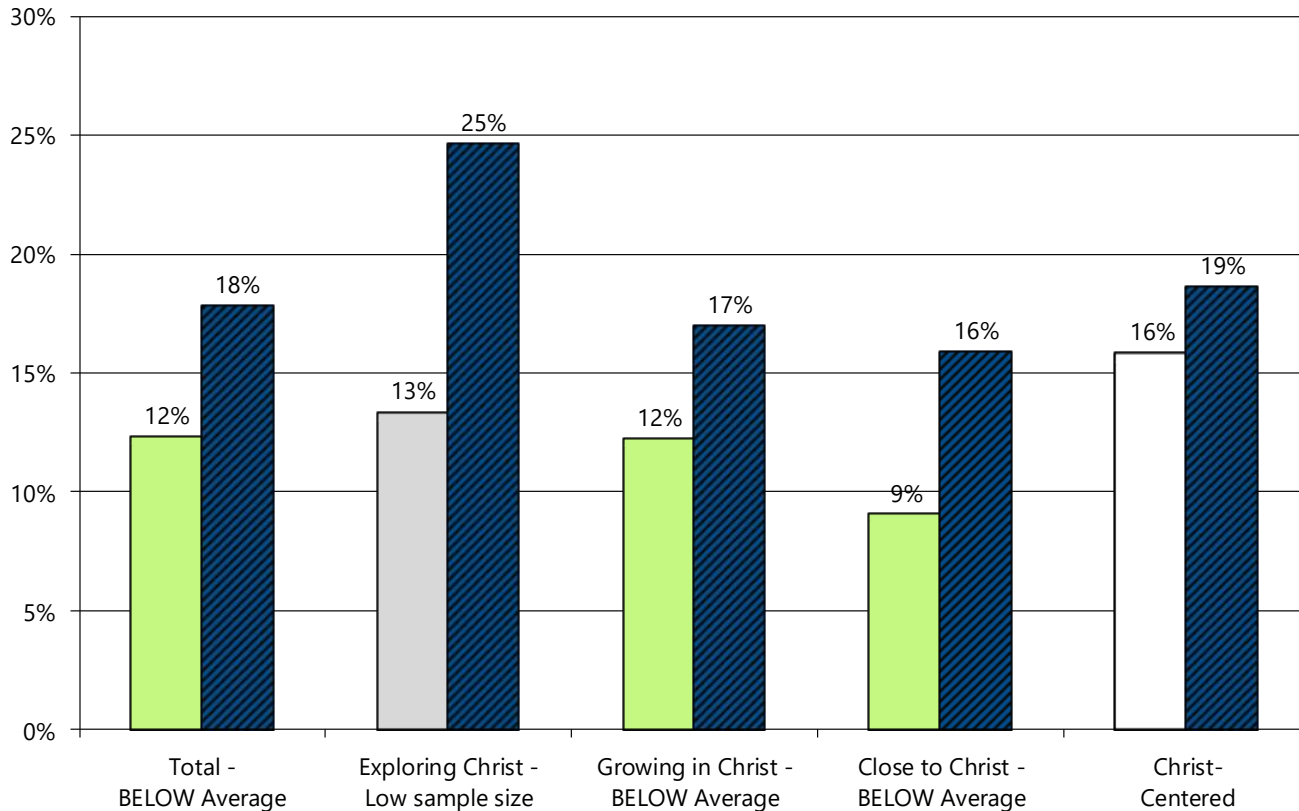
Left Column –
Your Church's Dissatisfied %

r	**Way ABOVE Average**
y	**ABOVE Average**
	Average
g	**BELOW Average**
	No Data Base Comparison

Right Column –
Total Sample Dissatisfied %

Based on your church sample size of 399

Top Five Priorities for the Dissatisfied

Priority Ranking	Top Five Priorities for the Dissatisfied (Based on level of importance and satisfaction)	Priority Score *	
1	Senior church leaders are actively engaged in helping people get started on their spiritual growth	9.2	Highest Priority
2	Provides training in how to share the gospel while serving those in need	9.0	
3	Prioritizes my spiritual growth over my church membership	8.7	
4	Helps me develop a personal relationship with Christ	8.2	
5	Church leaders model and consistently reinforce how to grow spiritually	8.1	

Based on your church sample size of 49

Note: (*) No database comparison.

Who Is Most Likely to Leave Church ABC

Spiritual Continuum		% Who Are "Unsure, Probably or Definitely Leaving the Church"
Segment	Base Size	
Total	400	5% g
Exploring Christ	15[#]	0%[#]
Growing in Christ	172	5% g
Close to Christ	111	4% g
Christ-Centered	102	5% g
Dissatisfied	49	18% g
Satisfied	350	3%

[#] Low sample size

Four Spiritual Continuum Segments = 100% of Your Church

Two Satisfaction Levels = 100% of Your Church

r	Way ABOVE Average
y	ABOVE Average
	Average
g	BELOW Average

Epilogue: Overall Summary

Goal: For you to get a ONE number snapshot of the overall spiritual vitality of your church and to present your church archetype

Overall Summary
Compared to the All Church Database

Pages 48 through 53:

Page 48 provides a spiritual profile of your congregation, highlighting strengths and weaknesses across the five categories of spiritual catalysts: Beliefs and Attitudes, Organized Church Activities, Personal Spiritual Practices, Spiritual Activities with Others and Spiritual Virtues.

Slide 49 offers an overview of the relative strengths and weaknesses of your church through the lens of the Five Best Practice Principles.

Slide 50 introduces eight distinct church archetypes found in the Spiritual Life Inventory database, which sets the stage for the narrative description of **your** church archetype on Slide 51. These archetypes reflect groups of churches with similar patterns of spiritual maturity and church effectiveness, so the description is not unique to your church.

Slide 53 presents your Spiritual Vitality Index, which is an overall measure of the spiritual temperament of your congregation.
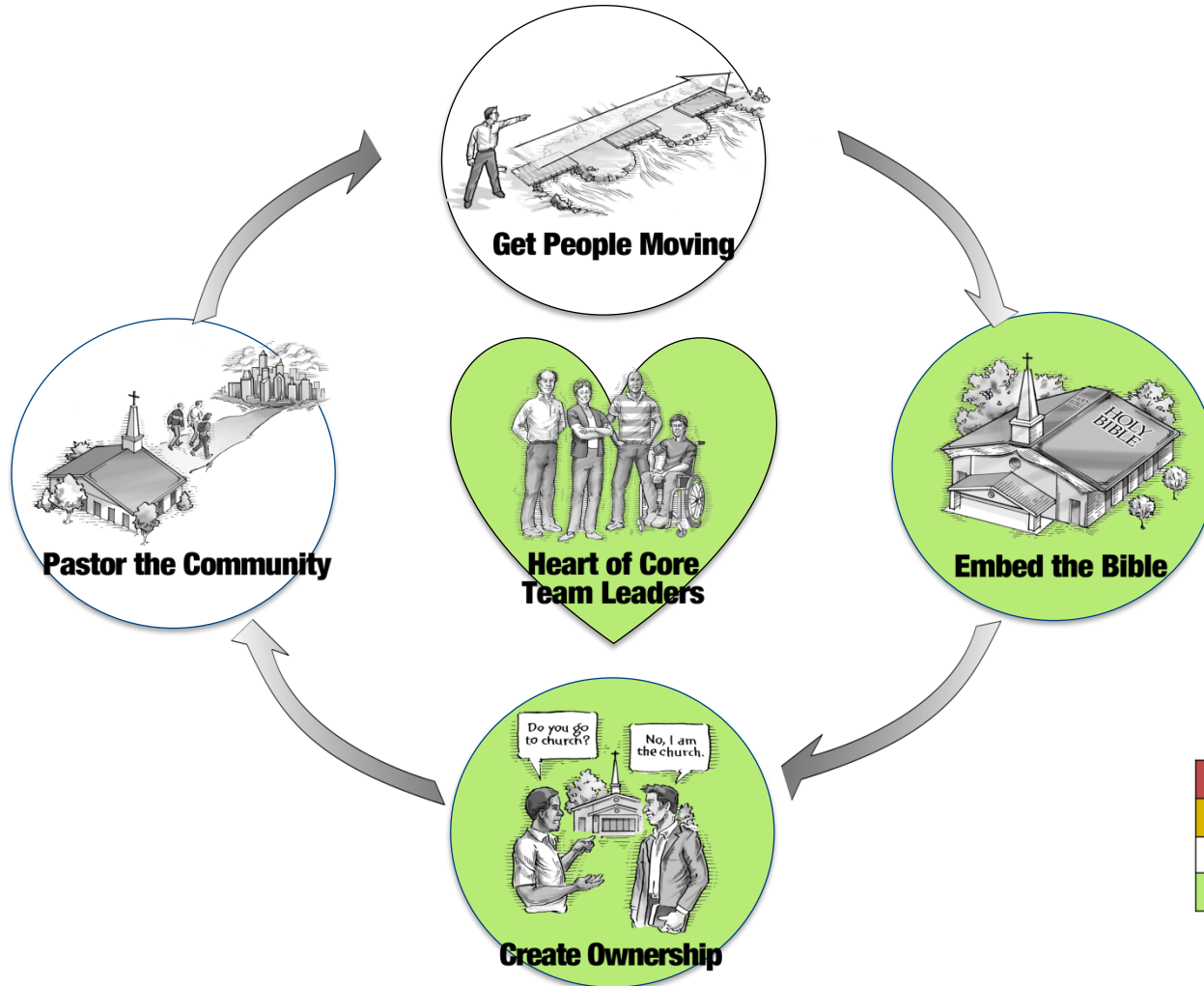
Spiritual Catalyst Profile
Church ABC
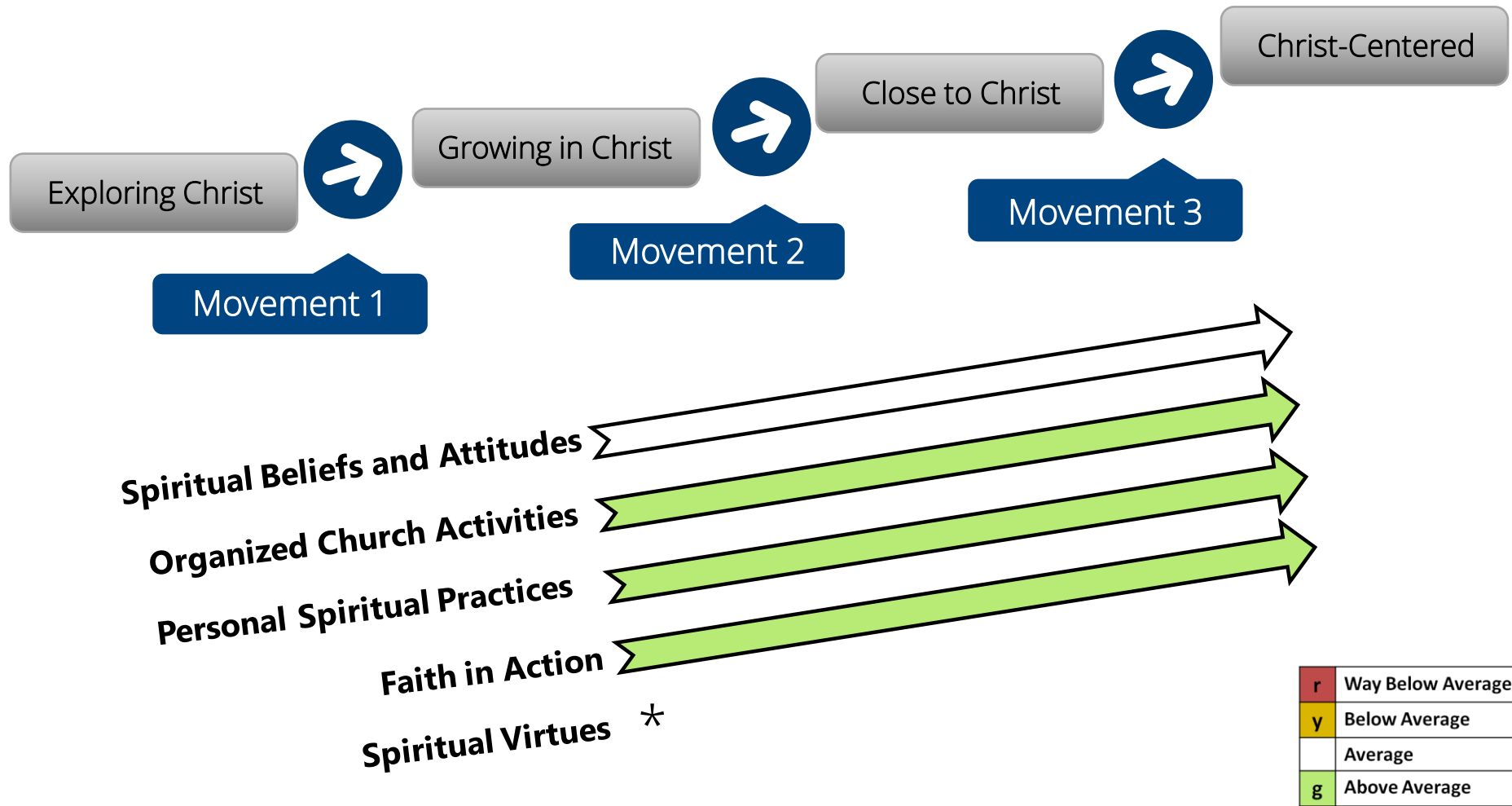
Exploring Christ

Growing in Christ

Close to Christ

Christ-Centered

Movement 1

Movement 2

Movement 3

Spiritual Beliefs and Attitudes

Organized Church Activities

Personal Spiritual Practices

Faith in Action

Spiritual Virtues *

r	Way Below Average
y	Below Average
	Average
g	Above Average

Note: (*) No database comparison available at this time.

r	**Great Urgency**
y	**Concern but Not Great Urgency**
	Not Much of a Concern
g	**Not a Concern At All**

Eight Church Archetypes Based on Spiritual Maturity and Church Effectiveness

1. **Troubled Churches** (15% of database)
   - Spiritual maturity is below average and dissatisfaction with the church is high.

2. **Complacent Churches** (17% of database)
   - Spiritual maturity is well below average, although many congregants have attended church for years.

3. **Extroverted Churches** (5% of database)
   - Spiritual maturity is somewhat below average, though relatively high levels of outreach activities

4. **Average Churches** (14% of database)
   - Spiritual maturity and related behaviors are average.

5. **Introverted Churches** (14% of database)
   - Spiritual maturity is above average, but faith-based activities outside the church are minimal.

6. **Self-Motivated Churches** (13% of database)
   - Spiritual maturity is above average, but satisfaction with the church is average at best.

7. **Energized Churches** (14% of database)
   - Spiritual maturity is average, but satisfaction with the church's role in spiritual growth is high.

8. **Vibrant Churches** (8% of database)
   - Spiritual maturity and related behaviors are well above average, as is satisfaction with the church.

Church ABC
Falls Into the "Extroverted" Archetype

Like your counterparts within the category of churches generating Spiritual Life Inventory results similar to your own, your church includes a greater-than-average number of congregants in the early stages of their spiritual journeys. As evidence of this relative immaturity, your people express lower levels of agreement with core Christian beliefs, as well as fairly limited engagement in personal spiritual practices. Despite the fact that they are generally in the earlier stages of spiritual development, however, they demonstrate impressive efforts to put their faith in action. Through their outreach to others, they reflect a willingness to live out what it means to be the light of Christ in their community—an outward expression of spiritual vitality that has likely been inspired by their leaders.

Your congregants' high degree of satisfaction with how your church is helping them grow spiritually, however, needs to be closely examined. When the congregation's feedback is positive and they are actively serving, these attributes could well mask the possibility that their spiritual lives are being defined more by outreach activities and less by a genuine and growing personal relationship with Jesus.

# Next Steps: Strategies and Resources for an Extroverted Church

Heart of Core Team Leaders

Get People Moving

Embed the Bible

- ## Define a spiritual growth pathway.
  - What does a disciple of Christ look like? "How do I get there?"
  - Simplify the stages of discipleship. Make them as memorable and distinct as possible. Define next steps.
  - Communicate the pathway widely. Reinforce it often.
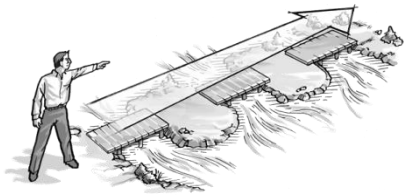
- ## Launch a high-impact jumpstart program for newcomers.
  - Cast vision, introduce the pathway, make connections happen.
  - Proven models: Purpose-Driven Model; Alpha
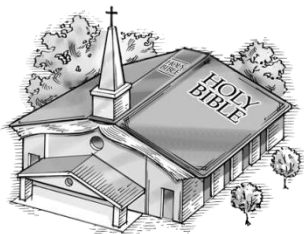
- ## Launch a Bible-based campaign, using all platforms.
  - Proven Options: "The Story" (Zondervan); "E100" (Scripture Union)
  - Integrate weekend services with small group curriculum.
  - If possible, incorporate campaign into children's and youth ministry.

- ## Elevate personal spiritual practices as a top priority.
  - Proven model: SOAP/Journaling framework (Wayne Cordeiro)

Church ABC

The **Spiritual Vitality Index** (SVI) was developed to reflect the spiritual health of a church congregation. It is based on the factors that are most highly correlated with spiritual growth, which are compared against the total Spiritual Life Inventory database. These catalysts fall into three categories: the Church's Role, Personal Spiritual Practices and Faith in Action.

In essence, the cycle illustrated by the SVI begins with the church helping people understand who Jesus is and what he taught. Then people adopt spiritual behaviors that they self manage, which lead to outward expressions of love and support for God and others. This cycle can repeat and deepen. Key questions:

First is the Church's Role. Does it set clear and high expectations for becoming a disciple of God? Does it encourage developing a direct and personal relationship with God? Does it introduce its people to the power of Scripture?

Next are Personal Spiritual Practices. Are people encouraged to read the Bible, reflect on the meaning of God's Word in their lives, and to pray—not only in church, but during the normal course of their daily lives? Do they understand and practice tithing?

Third is Faith in Action. Does the church provide ample opportunity to serve those in need? Are people making the effort outside the church to serve those in need on their own? Are they having meaningful spiritual conversations with others, especially those far from God?

Spiritual Vitality Index

Personal Spiritual Practices

78

Church's Role

Faith in Action

What Your Score Means:
This one number index score shows well your church is doing at helping people grow spiritually, compared with all other churches in the Spiritual Life Inventory database:

Score	Percentile Rank
86+	Top 5%
83-85	Top 10%
76-82	Top 25%
70-75	Upper 50%
<70	Lower 50%

Appendix: Christian Life Profile

Christian Life Profile

The *Christian Life Profile Assessment Tool* was created by Randy Frazee, senior minister of Oak Hills Community Church in San Antonio, Texas. Dozens of church leaders, theologians and others engaged in a rigorous process of biblical inquiry to find the core repeatable characteristics of a follower of Christ. The statements were then tested and refined in a number of forums, including *The Spiritual State of the Union*, an ongoing benchmark of the "spiritual temperature" in America, sponsored by The Gallup Organization. Among the experts contributing to the comprehensive effort were Dallas Willard, J.I. Packer, and Larry Crabb. The thoroughness of this approach, as well as the caliber of people engaged in the process, prompted us to adopt these statements for use in our research.

CLP Beliefs and Attitudes

- **Salvation by Grace:** "I believe nothing I do or have done can earn my salvation"

- **Trinity:** "I believe the God of the Bible is the only true God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit"

- **Authority of the Bible:** "I believe the Bible has decisive authority over what I say and do"

- **Personal God:** "I believe God is actively involved in my life"

- **Identity in Christ:** "I exist to know, love and serve God"

- **Church:** "I believe I cannot grow as a Christian unless I am an active member of a local church"

- **Humanity:** "I believe we are created in the image of God and therefore have equal value, regardless of race, religion, or gender"

- **Compassion:** "God calls me to be involved in the lives of the poor and suffering"

- **Eternity:** "I believe people who deliberately reject Jesus Christ as Savior will not be granted eternal life"

- **Christ is First:** "I desire Jesus to be first in my life"

- **Biblical Community:** "I allow other Christians to hold me accountable for my actions"

- **Stewardship:** "I believe a Christian should live a sacrificial life that is not driven by the pursuit of material things"

- **Spiritual Gifts:** "I know and use my spiritual gifts to fulfill God's purposes"

- **Giving Away My Life:** "I am willing to risk everything that is important in my life for Jesus Christ"

CLP Virtues

- **Love:** "God's grace enables me to forgive people who have hurt me"

- **Joy:** "I have inner contentment, even when things go wrong"

- **Peace:** "I am not anxious about my life as I have an inner peace from God

- **Patience:** "I keep my composure, even when people or circumstances irritate me"

- **Kindness:** "I am known as a person who speaks words of kindness to those in need of encouragement"

- **Faithfulness:** "I take unpopular stands when my faith dictates"

- **Gentleness:** "I am known for not raising my voice"

- **Self-Control:** "I control my tongue"

- **Hope:** "When I am in a crisis, I find my hope in my faith in God"

- **Humility:** "No task is too menial, if God calls me to it"

- **Spiritual Gifts:** "I know and use my spiritual gifts to fulfill God's purposes"

- **Giving away My Life:** "I am willing to risk everything that is important in my life for Jesus Christ"

Rationale for Priority Score Computation

Priority scores are calculated based on each respondent's rating of an attribute's importance and their satisfaction with how their church is doing with each attribute. The priority score is equal to (importance – satisfaction) x importance. The priority score reported for each attribute is an average of each respondent's priority score. Because of this method of calculation, the average priority score will not be equal to (average importance score – average satisfaction score) x average importance score.

By calculating the priority scores at the respondent level, we are better able to represent each person's view of what areas their church should prioritize. These priority scores contain more information than would be available if we used the average importance and satisfaction scores in our calculations because they capture each person's perspective.

What Your People Want Most from Church ABC

Church Needs (Ranked in order from high to low)	Importance Score (Scale: 6 is high; 1 is low)
Church teachers provide sound doctrine rooted in Biblical accuracy	5.4
Provides a worship service that is challenging and thought provoking	5.4
Helps me understand the Bible in greater depth	5.4
Helps me develop a personal relationship with Christ	5.3
Church leaders model and consistently reinforce how to grow spiritually	5.3
Challenges me to grow and take next steps spiritually	5.2
Helps me in my time of emotional need	5.2
Helps me develop a prayer life that connects me with God regularly	5.2
Encourages me to take personal responsibility for my own spiritual growth	5.2
Prioritizes my spiritual growth over my church membership	5.2
Senior church leaders actively help people get started on their spiritual growth	5.2
Helps me feel like I belong	5.2
Church leaders are authentic about their struggles	5.2
Scripture engagement is part of every experience people have at our church	5.2

Church Needs (Ranked in order from high to low)	Importance Score (Scale: 6 is high; 1 is low)
Consistently challenges me to engage with Scripture in new and interesting ways	5.1
Provides opportunities to grow spiritually through relationships with others	5.1
Provides a clear pathway that helps guide my spiritual growth	5.0
Promotes a strong serving culture that is widely recognized by the local community	5.0
Inspires such a sense of ownership that the church becomes an important part of who I am	5.0
Allows me to use and develop my spiritual gifts	4.9
Church leaders maintain harmony, handle troublemakers, and avert problems	4.9
Sets clear expectations about what it means to be part of the church	4.9
Provides opportunities for me to serve those in need	4.9
Provides training in how to share the gospel while serving those in need	4.8
Helps me develop relationships that encourage accountability	4.8
Empowers me to go out "on my own" to make a significant impact in the lives of others	4.7
Church leaders are a recognized voice on important local community issues	4.6

What Works Best for Your People at Church ABC

Church Needs (Ranked in order from high to low)	Satisfaction Score (Scale: 6 is high; 1 is low)
Church teachers provide sound doctrine rooted in Biblical accuracy	5.1
Helps me understand the Bible in greater depth	5.0
Provides a worship service that is challenging and thought provoking	5.0
Helps me develop a personal relationship with Christ	4.9
Church leaders are authentic about their struggles	4.9
Church leaders model and consistently reinforce how to grow spiritually	4.9
Helps me feel like I belong	4.8
Promotes a strong serving culture that is widely recognized by the local community	4.8
Challenges me to grow and take next steps spiritually	4.8
Scripture engagement is part of every experience people have at our church	4.8
Provides opportunities to grow spiritually through relationships with others	4.8
Encourages me to take personal responsibility for my own spiritual growth	4.8
Prioritizes my spiritual growth over my church membership	4.7
Provides opportunities for me to serve those in need	4.7

Church Needs (Ranked in order from high to low)	Satisfaction Score (Scale: 6 is high; 1 is low)
Helps me in my time of emotional need	4.7
Church leaders maintain harmony, handle troublemakers, and avert problems	4.7
Consistently challenges me to engage with Scripture in new and interesting ways	4.7
Helps me develop a prayer life that connects me with God regularly	4.7
Inspires such a sense of ownership that the church becomes an important part of who I am	4.6
Provides a clear pathway that helps guide my spiritual growth	4.6
Senior church leaders actively help people get started on their spiritual growth	4.6
Allows me to use and develop my spiritual gifts	4.6
Sets clear expectations about what it means to be part of the church	4.5
Church leaders are a recognized voice on important local community issues	4.5
Helps me develop relationships that encourage accountability	4.4
Empowers me to go out "on my own" to make a significant impact in the lives of others	4.4
Provides training in how to share the gospel while serving those in need	4.1