

# Family Sized Baptist Church Focus Groups

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I am suggesting that we run a number of focus groups of about 10 people, in order to further explore some issues of disagreements with the church congregation.

If we could get 30 people or so engaged at this level I think that would be helpful. I think that Ian and I could run 45 minute sessions to facilitate this.

## ***The key areas I think we could explore are***

- Do the disagreements in the church seem to fall into specific categories?
- If the disagreements are grouped around either individual people or individual issues, who are the people and what are the issues?
- Does this church deal with Risk Taking and Change well?
- Why is the church attenders, and leaders convinced that the present issues have little to do with the past?
- What are the perceived pressing issues that require decisions to be made?

Our present suspicion is that most of the disagreements are located and felt most strongly within the Leadership, rather than the wider congregation.

If this is further reinforced by the Focus groups to be the case, then maybe some interviews with the church leaders & their wives be offered?

I am presently thinking that the leaders would not be invited to be part of the focus groups. If we wanted their perspective we could run a specific group for leaders although we have already touched on some of these issues with them.

***I would suggest the following as a possible draft run sheet for such groups.***

## **DRAFT RUN SHEET FOR FOCUS GROUPS**

### **Have people do a name tag**

1. Introduce Consultants and purpose of these focus groups.
2. People arrange their seating to indicate how long they have been at the church. (Ice breaker)
3. Each person asked to recount one positive memory they have of this church. (Ice breaker, & gets everyone used to contributing)
4. Mapping exercise around disagreement categories

*From your perspective choose the top three descriptions that best describe the disagreements in this church.*

- a) *I am not aware of any disagreements in the church*
- b) *Most of the issues are focused around a few particular people.*
- c) *There are always issues in any church. This church is no different from any other church in this respect.*
- d) *The disagreements mainly focus around the pastor.*
- e) *The disagreements mainly are focused around the leaders.*
- f) *Disagreements focus mainly around a few specific issues.*
- g) *Our disagreements are varied and don't seem to follow any particular pattern.*

*If there is a strong feeling that the issues are focused around particular people or issues we could give the people some paper to write down who the people might be and what the specific issues are?*

### 5. Mapping Exercise on Risk Taking

*Stand near the description you think best describes how Family Sized Baptist Church Church responds to taking Risks.*

Family Sized Baptist Church;

- a) *Never takes risks*
- b) *Seldom takes risks*
- c) *Occasionally takes risks*
- d) *Often takes risks*
- e) *Almost always takes risks*

### 6. Comment invited from group.

- *Tell us of an example of a risk that this church has taken*
- *What was the last difficult decision that this church made a strong decision about?*
- *What are the differences between the disagreements that the church is presently facing and those the church has faced in the past?*

### 7. Go around the group and ask for one word that describes how they are feeling.

### 8. Close in prayer

9. Write down and leave behind.

- *What are the key issues that this church needs to make a decision on in the next 12 months?*
- *Are there any other comments that you would like to pass on to the consultants for consideration?*

## ***Disagreements.***

*From your perspective choose the top three descriptions that best describe the disagreements in this church.*

*✓ Tick your first choice*

*0 Circle your second choice*

*\_ Underline your third choice*

- a) I am not aware of any disagreements in the church*
- b) Most of the issues are focused around a few particular people.*
- c) There are always issues in any church. This church is no different from any other church in this respect.*
- d) The disagreements mainly focus around the pastor.*
- e) The disagreements mainly are focused around the leaders.*
- f) Disagreements focus mainly around a few specific issues.*
- g) Our disagreements are varied and don't seem to follow any particular pattern.*

## ***Risk Taking***

*Stand near the description you think best describes how Family Sized Baptist Church responds to taking Risks.*

*Family Sized Baptist Church;*

- a) Never takes risks*
- b) Seldom takes risks*
- c) Occasionally takes risks*
- d) Often takes risks*
- e) Almost always takes risks*

- *Tell us of an example of a risk that this church has taken*
- *What was the last difficult decision that this church made a strong decision about?*

- *What are the differences between the disagreements that the church is presently facing and those the church has faced in the past?*

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