LEAD Biblical Counseling Ministry

L  Life
E  Encouragers
A  And
D  Disciplers

Changed People Changing Lives with Christ’s Changeless Truth

“Speaking the truth in love” (Ephesians 4:15)

“Encourage one another daily” (Hebrews 3:13)

Congregational SWORD Heart Exam

S  Strengths
W  Weaknesses
O  Opportunities
R  Risks
D  Diagnosis

“The word of God is living and active, sharper than any double-edged sword” (Hebrews 4:12)
Congregational SWORD Heart Exam

Our church is committed to being a loving place to grow in grace. One of the ways we seek to fulfill our commitment is by being a church of biblical counseling, not simply a church with biblical counseling. We want informal one-another ministry to saturate our entire congregation so that we all speak the truth in love to one another. We also are considering launching a formal biblical counseling ministry where specially gifted and trained persons are equipped to change lives with Christ’s changeless truth.

In light of this vision, our congregation is taking a serious look at our capacity to provide quality, distinctly Christian care for our congregation and community. This congregational survey seeks to help us to assess our congregation’s current informal one-another ministry (mutual encouragement, spiritual friendship) and our formal biblical counseling ministry (offered by pastors and members). This questionnaire also seeks to assess our potential for and commitment to growth in these ministry areas.

This Congregational SWORD Heart Exam takes, on average, one hour. It will be time well-spent both personally and congregationally. We ask that you prayerfully and thoughtfully complete this survey by _________ (one month from now), and return it to _________ either electronically at ___________, or by snail mail at ___________. Or, you can place your completed questionnaire in the collection box placed at the Welcome Center kiosk in the church foyer.

Our LEAD (Lay Encouragers And Disciplers) biblical counseling launch team, along with the church leadership, will thoroughly review all returned questionnaires—we will do the “D” of “Diagnosis” in the SWORD exam. Your input (about Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Risks) will make a significant difference in our ministry development.

Because ministry is relational, we prefer that you include your name below, rather than completing the survey anonymously. However, we will leave the final decision to you.

Name: ____________________________________________________________________________

Date: ____________________________________________________________________________
Present Strengths and Weaknesses

- Please respond to the following questions using a 1-to-10 rating. A “1” would indicate a very low level of effectiveness, or confidence, or desire in this area. A “10” would indicate a very high level of effectiveness, or confidence, or desire in this area. Please feel free to use any number from 1 to 10. Also, feel free to provide any comments you would like, or simply to provide the numerical rating.

1. How well are we encouraging our congregation to care like Christ: to be spiritual friends, to practice informal one-another ministry?

2. How well are we equipping our congregation for biblical counseling: to relate God’s Word to people’s lives, to change lives with Christ’s changeless truth, to speak the truth in love so people mature in Christ?

3. How confident are you in your ability to offer informal spiritual friendship and to come alongside a friend who is suffering or struggling with a sin issue?

4. How confident are you in your ability to provide formal biblical counseling to a person who is suffering or is struggling with a sin issue?

5. How would you assess our congregation’s current ability to provide biblical counseling for people in need of (please rate each area below using the 1-to-10 scale):

   a. Individual biblical counseling
   b. Pre-marital biblical counseling
   c. Marital biblical counseling
   d. Family/parental biblical counseling
   e. Adolescent biblical counseling
• Please answer the following questions based upon the informal one-another ministry and the formal biblical counseling ministry provided both by our pastoral staff and by our equipped members.

1. What are some of the strengths of our current biblical counseling ministry?

2. What are some of the weaknesses of our current biblical counseling ministry that you would like to see us address?

3. What are specific ways that our church could improve the provision of informal one-another care?

4. What are specific ways that our church could improve the provision of formal biblical counseling?

5. What patterns or mindsets might be making it difficult for our church to become a place where we speak the truth in love to one another?

6. When formal biblical counseling is needed, how long does it take to receive it? Have you or someone you know ever requested biblical counseling here but been unable to receive it?

7. Do you believe that we have a sufficient number of trained biblical counselors (pastors and members) to meet the needs of our congregation? Why or why not? How many would be sufficient?

8. Do you believe that we have a sufficient number of trained biblical counselors (pastors and members) to meet the needs of our community? Why or why not? How many would be sufficient?
**Future Opportunities and Risks**

- Please respond to the following questions using a 1-to-10 rating. A “1” would indicate a very low level of effectiveness, or confidence, or desire in this area. A “10” would indicate a very high level of effectiveness, or confidence, or desire in this area. Please feel free to use any number from 1 to 10. Also, feel free to provide any comments you would like, or simply to provide the numerical rating.

  ___ 1. What impact might more intentional, formal, structured equipping in biblical counseling have on our ministry to people in our **congregation**?

  ___ 2. What impact might more intentional, formal, structured equipping in biblical counseling have on our ministry to people in our **community**?

  ___ 3. What level of interest and commitment would you have in being further equipped as a spiritual friend who could help others in an informal, friend-to-friend manner when they are suffering or struggling with a sin issue?

  ___ 4. What level of interest and commitment would you have in being equipped as a biblical counselor who could help others in a more formal way by relating God’s truth to their lives when they are suffering or struggling with a sin issue?

- Please answer the following questions based upon the informal one-another ministry and the formal biblical counseling ministry provided both by our pastoral staff and by our equipped members.

  1. What obstacles might stand in the way of healthy informal one-another ministry in our church? Where do we need to change or grow if we are to move forward as a church where every member speaks the truth in love?

  2. In the past, how has our church responded to change and to the launch of new ministries? How might similar responses hinder or help a renewed focus on equipping in formal biblical counseling?
3. If we launched a formal biblical counseling training ministry, who and what might stand in the way? What apple carts might we upset? What objections might people raise? How could we respond?

4. Read Ephesians 3:20 and dream as if we could not fail. What do you think God will do with our biblical counseling ministry in the future? In one year? Five? Ten? Twenty?

5. What areas of counseling are you aware of that are the greatest need for people in our congregation? Of the list below, rank the top ten needs, with 1 being the greatest need.

   ___ Addiction: Drugs/Alcohol
   ___ Addiction/Pornography/Sexual
   ___ Anger
   ___ Anxiety/Fear/Phobia/Worry
   ___ Blended Family/Step-Parenting
   ___ Christ-Esteem/Identity in Christ
   ___ Christian Growth
   ___ Cutting
   ___ Death and Dying
   ___ Depression
   ___ Divorce/Remarriage
   ___ Doubt
   ___ Eating Disorders
   ___ Educational
   ___ Emotional Abuse
   ___ Emotional Control/Maturity
   ___ Forgiveness
   ___ Financial
   ___ Other: ____________________________
   ___ Other: ____________________________
   ___ Other: ____________________________

6. Where we to provide biblical counseling by trained members of our congregation, for any/all of the above, would you utilize that counseling? Please explain your answer.

7. How could we turn our community upside down for Christ through biblical counseling?
8. What are the five greatest concerns of the residents of our community? Five greatest struggles? How could we address these issues biblically?

9. How responsive do you think our community would be if we offered them biblical counseling?

10. What areas of counseling are you aware of that are the greatest need for people in our community? Of the list below, rank the top ten needs, with 1 being the greatest need.

   - Addiction: Drugs/Alcohol
   - Addiction/Pornography/Sexual
   - Anger
   - Anxiety/Fear/Phobia/Worry
   - Blended Family/Step-Parenting
   - Christ-Esteem/Identity in Christ
   - Christian Growth
   - Cutting
   - Death and Dying
   - Depression
   - Divorce/Remarriage
   - Doubt
   - Eating Disorders
   - Educational
   - Emotional Abuse
   - Emotional Control/Maturity
   - Forgiveness
   - Financial
   - Other: ____________________________
   - Other: ____________________________
   - Other: ____________________________

11. What else would you like to share with us or ask us?

Thank you so much for giving of your valuable time to this valuable project.