

Strategic Prayer Initiative™, Inc.

Instructions for**Surveying a Group or Congregation with the Short 14-Question SPI™ Diagnostic Survey**

Follow these bullet points to improve the effectiveness of your survey:

1. **Leading up to the day of the survey, and including the day itself, pray for the survey process and those taking part in the survey.** Also, pray that God would give wisdom to the leaders or decision-makers when they get the final results report.
2. **Expect spiritual opposition.** You should not be surprised if one or more people will oppose the survey by having some reason why it is not appropriate, or it is not needed. For example: if God is sovereign, He will do whatever He wants anyway, so prayer is not needed. Or, trying to help people to grow in prayer is a legalism and a guilt trip. (Another one we heard was measuring a group or congregation concerning these types of things is not in the Bible, so it should not be done.) Even if you do get opposition, press on. Your goal is to help people to pray more effectively and see prayer flourish at your church.
3. **Have sufficient pens** or pencils available. Purchase these ahead of time and place them throughout the room where the survey will take place.
4. **Print enough surveys** for the amount of people expected—and a few more!
5. You can print the surveys on standard 20 lb. white paper if you like. In our opinion printing the surveys on **24 lb. ivory or beige colored paper is better**. Heavier paper, and colored paper, make the surveys feel and look more professional to those taking them. The paper choice is yours, but at least try for colored paper.
6. **Plan to do the survey sometime mid-service or mid-meeting.** This timeframe is by far the sweet spot! Though it may sound harsh, do not give the surveys out before, or at the end of, the service/meeting. Please do not pre-place them in the pews or try to do the survey during communion or offering times. From experience, we know the only way to get the most surveys filled out and returned is by handing them out DURING the service/meeting. Allow approximately eight (8) minutes for individuals to complete the survey. They should be collected at the end of the eight minutes.
7. **Allow individuals to do the surveys on their own.** In other words, do not have one individual read the questions out loud, one at a time, while others in the group fill out their individual surveys. Our Ph.D-ed religious polling expert advised against doing the survey in a group format, as it can slant the results.
8. As you would expect, **different people fill out surveys differently, some are really fast and some like to spend more time thinking about the questions.** We address the different completion times by letting the participants know Questions 1-9 on the front of the survey are multiple choice, and that questions 10-14, on the back-side of the survey, can be answered by just circling Agree or Disagree. **Tell your people to just circle their answers to the questions on the back-side of the survey, then if they have more time available, they can write in some comments** or mention a verse or two. This allows the people who want, or need, more time to have more than enough time to fill in the basic answers to the questions on the back-side.

On the other hand, those that are quicker are asked to fill in comments on the back-side questions, and to possibly fill in any Scripture references they feel may apply to the answers they have circled (*If they want to look up verses that's fine.*). These written-in parts of the answers give the quicker participants something important to do while they are waiting for the completion of the roughly eight (8) minutes that are given to the whole group. Having something to do for the quicker individuals, allows the people who prefer to take more time to not feel like others are waiting on them while they finish up.
9. **When the allotted time has been completed, have the individuals turn their survey over so that “Page One (1)” is facing down, and have them passed to the aisle to be collected.** If it is a smaller group, you can collect them yourself or pass around a large envelope and have the group slide their individual surveys inside.
10. **As the surveys are being collected, thank the individuals for their participation!** Let them know the results will be shared in the weeks ahead and that you are excited to grow with them in seeing prayer make some great advancements, and flourish at your church or group. [Note: Additional survey tools are available at www.SPPrayer.org by searching the word Survey.]