

## “Family-Friendly Church” 12-point Assessment

### **What is the Family-Friendly Church Assessment?**

Families are increasingly looking for churches that are able to meet the spiritual, relational, and social needs of all family members from children to adults. However, their efforts to locate such churches often fail because there is no objective way to assess how well and consistently churches are attending to issues germane to healthy family living. The assessment uses a 12-point index in which a church is assessed on a 5-point scale that represents the extent to which each measurement is meaningfully evident in the congregation.

1	2	3	4	5
<i>Not at all meaningfully evident</i>	<i>Rarely evident in any meaningful capacity</i>	<i>Frequently but inconsistently evident</i>	<i>Consistently evident but lacks excellent execution</i>	<i>Consistently evident with excellent execution</i>

The assessment has three levels (see table below), each representing a more robust array of ministry offerings to enrich the church, family, and community family health.

### **Who benefits from the family-friendly church assessment?**

The Family-friendly ministry assessment is intended to give churches an objective rubric against which they can measure their progress in implementing ministries and programming that strengthens the family foundation. It also provides a tool to congregants to assess the church that best fits their family needs. Finally, this assessment benefits the community by raising the bar for ministry models that are implemented.

## 12-point “Family-Friendly Church” Assessment tool

Description	
<b>Level I</b>	<i>The church demonstrates the leadership and foundational training to successfully prepare couples for marriage and to give them tools to sustain and model healthy marriages</i>
<b>** Pastor engagement</b>	Senior and/or assistant pastors directly advocate for and participate in family ministries
<b>** Trained Ministry Leaders</b>	Ministry leaders have been formally trained in a skills-based curriculum germane to their family ministry focus
<b>** Premarital Programming</b>	A systematic array of services are available to prepare engaged couples for marriage included but not limited to formal curriculum, mentoring with seasoned couple, networking with other engaged couples
<b>** Marriage skills training</b>	Ministry consistently offers marital training to couples on the following skills: communication, intimacy, financial literacy
<b>Marital Enrichment</b>	Regularly scheduled programming is offered to build relationship within the couple dyad and forming bonds with other couples
<b>Crisis Couple Intervention</b>	Services are available to work with crisis couples including individual/couple counseling or an effective referral network for outside counseling/services
<b>Level II</b>	<i>The church demonstrates sensitivity and support to non-traditional family configurations as well as support systems for issues faced by singles</i>
<b>Blended family friendly</b>	Ministry recognizes and provides resources/ministry geared towards couples and children in blended families
<b>Support for dating and engaged couples</b>	Ministry offers programming to train and support dating and engaged couples to maintain Christian character and purity as individuals and couples
<b>Parenting Support</b>	Ministry consistently offers scheduled skills and relationship building programming for parents of pre-adult children
<b>Single parent support</b>	Ministry recognizes and provides resources/ministry geared towards single parents
<b>Single's Support</b>	Ministry consistently offers programming to strengthen the individual character and relational interaction of singles spiritually, psychologically, and emotionally
<b>Level III</b>	<i>The church demonstrates a family-centered culture in which the welfare of the family is consistently valued, measured, and gracefully used to enforce accountability</i>
<b>Integrated Family Culture</b>	The pastor and senior leadership have written and communicated a vision for family ministry to which they and ministry leaders are held accountable for integrating within the broader church culture

\*\* Priority Activities