



Listening Project

**A short guide
to hosting a Listening Project event.**

*'In God we live & move & have our being'
Acts 17:28*

The Background

Commissioned by the Mission Forum in November 2017, the Listening Project is an interactive workshop based around 7 questions, designed to gather information about what those within the Baptist Family perceive God is up to at this time. The hope is to build up a picture of where we see God at work so that we can give thanks and celebrate, direct the resources we have to the places that need them and more confidently join in the work of the Kingdom.

This booklet provides information on how to host a 'Listening Project' event in your church and what to do with the information that you gather.

Getting Started

1. Decide how to host your Listening Project event.

You could:

- (a) invite people to come to a workshop at a specific time and place or
- (b) invite people to participate at an existing event (eg after worship on a Sunday)

2. Gather the resources that you will need to run the session.

Each question has a 'kit list'. Most of the items are readily available (pens and paper) or things that can easily be improvised (dried beans for marbles etc. - that'll make more sense when you get to Question 9!)

3. Set up your space and give people clear instructions.

Give yourself time to set up the resources in the space that you are using and make sure that it is clear what people are being asked to do. Whether you're hosting a specific workshop or running it alongside/after another event, people can complete the questions in any order and in their own time. In case people drift off at different times, remember to thank them for their time and input at the start.

4. Collate the answers.

Once people have had chance to participate, collect up the sheets and use the 'Recording Responses' form to collate what people said.

5. Review Responses and Submit

Take time to look over the responses. What is there to celebrate? Is there anything that surprises you? How might your local church family use this information going forward?

Question 1


What is your favourite thing about your church?

Kit List:

- Question and instructions on how to answer
- Blue tac or masking tap if putting poster on the wall
- Flip chart paper
- Post its
- Pens

Write ONE on a post-it and attach it below.

What is your favourite thing about your church?
Write ONE word on a post it and attach it below.



Question 2

What THREE things does your church do well?

Kit list:

- Question and instructions on how to answer
- Blue tac or masking tap if putting poster on the wall
- Flipchart paper with answer options listed
- Yellow, green and red dot stickers

Use one **yellow** dot to indicate your first choice, one **green** dot to indicate your second choice and one **red** dot to indicate your third choice from the options given.

What THREE things does your church do well?
Use one **yellow** dot to indicate your first choice, one **green** dot to indicate your second choice and one **red** dot to indicate your third choice from the options below.

Answer Options	Space for stickers
1. Fellowship	
2. Helping those in need	
3. Youth/Children's work	
4. Worship	
5. Community work	
6. Evangelism	
7. Pastoral Care	
8. Discipleship	
9. Prayer	
10. Mission	

Question 3

What ONE thing could your church do better?

Kit list:

- Question and instructions on how to answer
- Blue tac or masking tap if putting poster on the wall
- Flipchart paper with answer options listed
- Blue dot stickers

Use one blue sticker to indicate your choice from the options given.

What ONE thing could your church do better?
Use one blue sticker to indicate your choice from the options below.

Answer Options	Space for stickers
1. Fellowship	
2. Helping those in need	
3. Youth/Children's work	
4. Worship	
5. Community work	
6. Evangelism	
7. Pastoral Care	
8. Discipleship	
9. Prayer	
10. Mission	

Question 4

What does the word 'mission' mean to you?

Kit list:

- A4 paper
- Sticky foam letters

Using the sticky letters, write a definition of what mission means to you in a tweet, just 140 characters! You do not need to include the words 'Mission is'.

Question 5a

Where do you see God at work?

Kit list:

- Question and instructions on how to answer
- Blue tac or masking tap if putting poster on the wall
- Flipchart paper with categories listed
- Post-its
- Pens



Think of **ONE** occasion recently when you have seen God at work and write it on a post-it.

Around the room, there are pages with different categories listed (eg: among the marginalised, among children & youth, through prayer). Think about your what you have written and stick your post-it on the category it falls into.

1. Among those who are marginalised
2. Within the church
3. Among children and young people
4. Through prayer
5. In me/my family
6. Through mission
7. In my community (community engagement)
8. At work
9. Through Churches Together
10. Other

Question 5b

How are you joining in?

Kit list:

- Question and instructions on how to answer
- Blue tac or masking tap if putting poster on the wall
- Flipchart paper with categories listed
- Post-its
- Pens



Think of how you are currently using your gifts, skills, talents, and time, in and for the Kingdom.

Name **ONE** way in which you are joining in & write it on a post-it.

Around the room there are pages with different categories (eg: volunteering, leading, praying). Think about what you have written and stick your post-it on the category it falls into.

1. Volunteering
2. Leading
3. Encouraging/supporting
4. Sharing faith
5. Praying
6. Being present
7. Challenging
8. Reaching out
9. Through my work
10. Other

Question 5c

Is there anything else you could do/you would like to do? What would help you to do it?

Kit list:

- Question and instructions on how to answer
- Blue tac or masking tap if putting poster on the wall
- Flipchart paper with categories listed
- Post-its
- Pens

Think of where there might be a need and what you could do. On a post-it, write down ONE thing you could do that you aren't already doing (ie something new) then have look at the list of things that might help you achieve it. Stick you post-it in the most relevant category.

Is there anything else you could do?
From the options below, what would help you to do this new thing?

People

Time

Training

Money

Networking

Question 6a

Do you feel connected to the Baptist Family (Baptist Union)?

Kit list:

- Question and instructions on how to answer
- Jars
- Marbles

Take a marble from the jar and place it in the pot which best represents you response; Yes, Sometimes or No.

Question 6b

Do you feel connected to your local Baptist Association?

Kit list:

- Question and instructions on how to answer
- Jars
- Marbles

Take a marble from the jar and place it in the pot which best represents you response; Yes, Sometimes or No.

Question 7

If you were asked to send a postcard to another church to encourage them, what would you say?

Kit list:

- Postcards
- Postbox (or just something to collect completed ones in)
- Pens

Choose a postcard from the pile and write a short, encouraging message, placing it in the postbox when you are done.

Recording Responses Form

This form is designed to record the answers for up to 20 participants. Please use additional sheets as necessary.

Where did the Listening Event take place?			
How many people took part?			
Question 1 - What is your favourite thing about your church?			
Record the words below, one per box:			

Question 2, continued...

With the same data, make a tally of how many times each category was mentioned in any places (1st, 2nd or 3rd)

Category	Tally	Total
Fellowship		
Helping those in need		
Youth/Children's work		
Worship		
Community work		
Evangelism		
Pastoral care		
Discipleship		
Prayer		
Mission		

Question 3 - What ONE thing could you church do better?

Make a tally of how many times each category was mentioned:

Category	Tally	Total
Fellowship		
Helping those in need		
Youth/Children's work		
Worship		
Community work		
Evangelism		
Pastoral care		
Discipleship		
Prayer		
Mission		

Question 5a - Where do you see God at work?

Make a tally of how many post-its were placed in category:

Category	Tally	Total
Among marginalised		
Within the church		
Among children/youth		
Through prayer		
In me / my family		
Through mission		
In my community		
At work		
Through Churches Together		
Other		

Using the same data, record the actual stories in each category.
Give each story it's own bullet point.

Category	Story
Among marginalised	
Within the church	
Among children/youth	

Through prayer	
In me / my family	
Through mission	
In my community	
At work	
Through Churches Together	
Other	

Question 5b - How are you joining in?

Make a tally of how many post-its were placed in category:

Category	Tally	Total
Volunteering		
Leading		
Encouraging/supporting		
Sharing faith		
Praying		
Being present		
Challenging		
Reaching out		
Through my work		
Other		

Using the same data, record the actual stories in each category.
Give each story it's own bullet point.

Category	Story
Volunteering	
Leading	
Encouraging/supporting	

Sharing faith	
Praying	
Being present	
Challenging	
Reaching out	
Through my work	
Other	

Question 5c - Is there anything else you could do/you would like to do? what would help you to do it?

Make a tally of how many post-its were placed in category:

Category	Tally	Total
People		
Time		
Training		
Money		
Networking		

Using the same data, record the actual ideas people noted on their post-its. Give each idea it's own bullet point.

Category	Story
People	
Time	
Training	
Money	

Networking	
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Question 6a - Do you feel connected to the Baptist Family (Baptist Union)?

Record how many marbles were placed in each pot.

Category	Tally	Total
Yes		
No		
Sometimes		

Question 6b - Do you feel connected to your local Baptist Association?

Record how many marbles were placed in each pot.

Category	Tally	Total
Yes		
No		
Sometimes		

