
3 STEPS

**TO DISCOVERING NEEDS
IN YOUR COMMUNITY**





1. Explore the physical community.

- In what condition are the buildings, homes, schools, churches and playgrounds?
- To whom are stores and businesses marketing their products?
- Who is out and about in the community (children, teenagers, senior adults)?
- What demographic breakdowns are observable?
- Where do people gather in groups?
- How do people move around the community (car, bus, taxi, walking)?¹

¹ Adapted from Sean Benesh, "10 Ways to Exegete Your City," available at www.visioneeringstudios.com.



2. Listen to and learn from people in the community.

- Talk to several people as you explore the community about what they perceive as the community's best assets and greatest needs.
- Conduct a demographic study of the community. One source is the [Leavell Center of the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary](#). Another is Ed Stetzer's [Exegete Your Culture](#) resource guide.
- Talk to local government officials about the needs they want to address in the community.
- Ride with local police officers to explore their observations and understandings about the community.
- Talk with other area church leaders about how they understand the needs of the community.
- Talk with school officials and teachers about the needs of the community they see through the children in their classrooms.
- Visit the local library to discover recent community history.²

² Chuck Lawless, "10 Ways to Read Your Community," available at www.thomrainer.com.



3. Seek God's guidance through prayer-driving and prayer-walking.

- Intentionally drive and walk through the area while looking with God's eyes.
- Pray for local congregations as you pass places of worship.
- Pray for children and families as you pass schools and playgrounds.
- Pray for the homeless, the abused, the addicted, the lonely and the afraid, as you pass through the neighborhood.
- Ask God to show you needs you and your congregation can impact.



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