

Am I Called to Plant?

A 15-Minute Discernment Guide to Explore Your Calling

What This Tool Helps You Do:

- Use this tool to explore whether God may be calling you to help start a new faith community, ministry, or expression of church.
 - This is not a test that will give you a final yes or no. It will help you pay attention to what God may already be stirring in you and identify your next step in discernment.
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When to Use It:

- Use this tool when you find yourself wondering, *“Could God be calling me to start something new?”*
 - You do not need to have a ministry model, location, team, funding, or even a clear picture of what you might start. Discernment often begins before the details are clear.
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What You’ll Need:

- 15–20 minutes
- A quiet place
- A pen
- An open mind and a willingness to listen

PART 1: **Notice the Stirring**

Complete these sentences without overthinking your answers.

I find myself paying attention to people who...

I am increasingly concerned about...

I wish the church would...

I feel most alive in ministry when...

If I could start something to help people encounter Jesus, I would...

Now look back at what you wrote. What pattern do you notice?

PART 2:

Check the Signals

Read each statement and rate how true it is for you right now.

1 = Not Really True 2 = Occasionally True 3 = Somewhat True 4 = Usually True 5 = Very True

CALLING

- _____ I sense God drawing my attention toward people who are not currently connected to a church or faith community.
- _____ I feel a growing burden to help people encounter Jesus in new ways.
- _____ The idea of starting something new continues to return even when I try to forget or ignore it.

MISSION

- _____ I naturally notice people, communities, or groups the church is not currently reaching.
- _____ I am willing to go where people are gathering already rather than expecting them to come to me.
- _____ I am genuinely curious about the lives, struggles, and culture of the people and community God may be calling me to serve.

RELATIONSHIPS

- _____ I enjoy building relationships with people who may not share my beliefs.
- _____ People tend to trust me and share their stories with me.
- _____ I can invite people into a vision or opportunity without pressuring them.

LEADERSHIP

- _____ I am comfortable beginning something before every detail is figured out.
- _____ I can gather people around a shared purpose.
- _____ I am willing to experiment, learn, adjust, and try again.

DISCIPLESHIP

- _____ I am personally growing in my relationship with Jesus.
- _____ I want to help other people follow Jesus, not simply attend something I coordinate or lead.
- _____ I am willing to invest deeply in a few people and help them become disciples who make disciples.

TOTAL SCORE: _____ / 75

Your number can be helpful, but your score does not determine your calling.

Instead, look through your responses and circle:

- Three statements you rated highest
- Two statements you rated lowest
- One statement that surprised you

Consider:

- What seems strongest in me right now?
- Where might I need growth, experience, or support?
- What surprised me?

PART 3: Listen

Take three quiet minutes with God. Begin with this prayer:

Jesus, I want to participate in what You are doing. If You are calling me to start something new, help me recognize Your voice. Show me the people You are asking me to notice, the gifts You have already placed in me, and the next faithful step You want me to take. Give me courage to say yes and freedom to say no. I want Your will more than I want my own plans. Amen.

Now sit quietly.

Don't try to manufacture an answer, simply ask:

Jesus, who are You asking me to notice?

What might You be asking me to do?

What is one next step of obedience?

PART 4:

Name Where You Are

Underline the statement that best describes you right now.

The goal of discernment isn't to force a 'yes'. It's to become attentive enough to give God an honest answer.

I'M CURIOUS. Something is stirring, but I don't know what it means yet.

I'M EXPLORING. I want to learn more about planting and starting new faith communities.

I'M SENSING A CALL. I believe God may be inviting me to start something new.

I'M READY TO EXPERIMENT. I don't have everything figured out, but I'm ready to take a small step.

I'M READY TO PURSUE PLANTING. I want help discerning a context, developing a team, and moving toward a new faith community.

I'M NOT SENSING A CALL TO PLANT RIGHT NOW. God may be calling me to participate in another way.

Try This Next:

- Share what you discovered with one trusted person this week.
- Tell a pastor, coach, church planter, denominational leader, or spiritually mature friend: *"I'm wondering whether God may be calling me to help start something new. Would you help me discern what I'm sensing?"*
- Don't make a major decision yet. Start a conversation.

Adaptations

- **If you are a layperson:** Don't assume planting requires becoming clergy. Pay particular attention to the people and relationships God has already placed around you.
- **If you are already serving a church:** Consider whether God may be calling you to start something from your current congregation rather than leave it—such as a new worshipping community, microchurch, missional community, campus, or other expression.
- **If you are discerning across cultures:** Do not begin with, "What should I start?" Begin with, "What do I need to learn?" Spend time listening to people from the community before deciding what ministry should look like.
- **If you scored lower than expected:** Don't interpret that as "God isn't calling me." Some capacities are developed through experience, coaching, partnership, and practice. Your next step may be exploration rather than launching.
- **If you scored very high:** Don't interpret that as "God has definitely called me to plant." Strong gifts and passion are worth exploring, but calling is best discerned through prayer, community, experience, and confirmation.