



COUNT

Take a numerical assessment of the need

BIG IDEA

Before you do something about a need, you need to learn more about it. COUNT is about taking a numerical assessment of a need. Regardless of the size of your project, numbers will provide eye-opening insight. In Luke 17:11-19, Jesus counted exactly how many lepers he healed (10) and how many came back to thank him (1). The key to understanding this story is in the numbers. Whether you are counting needs in your neighborhood or looking at city-wide statistics, God will use this step to help you see the need from His perspective.

STEPS

1. **Gather numerical information about the need.**

Opportunity Map tool online can help you identify places of need in your geographic area.

2. Use the **COUNT Worksheet** to discuss and summarize with your team.
3. Pray about what God wants you to focus on.
4. Identify places where you will WALK.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ON DOSOMETHINGCHURCH.ORG

[Opportunity Map](#)

THE NEED

Name and one-sentence description

Caring for Foster Youth in our county. What can we do as a church to love them?

FACTS

List key numerical facts about the need.

4400 children in Foster Care in our county. 40 months avg time spent in Foster Care
1/3 Foster Youth experience 5+ school changes, 43% will graduate from High School, 20% go to college, 20% diagnosed with PTSD, 22% homeless within 12 months of emancipation, 25% incarcerated within 2 years of emancipation etc.

PLACES

List key places where this need is present.

42 group homes -
19 adoption agencies
3 churches with a foster care ministry

PEOPLE

List key people you can contact who experience this need or can tell you more about it.

County Child and Welfare Services team
Group Home Directors
Outreach pastor from local church with a foster care ministry

PRAY

What is God directing you to do?

We need to learn more. Meet with the People Listed.
Find a way to meet the kids and hear their stories.

NEXT STEP - WALK

Prepare to WALK. Where and when will you go to learn more about the need?

Visit Director of Child and Welfare Services. Name, contact info...
Visit Group Home Director. Name, contact info.
Visit Outreach Pastor, name contact info.
Volunteer at an event for Foster Youth to meet them in person.

QUESTIONS AND IDEAS TO PURSUE

Use this page to note key questions, ideas and insights from COUNTING..

Questions:

Why are the PTSD rates so high? What is the support they get?

What are the main reasons so many foster youth don't graduate highschool. What are the

How do foster youth get placed in foster families vs. group homes?

Why do they change schools so often?

What age do they get emancipated? How does that look? Are there any services to help them after Foster Care? etc.

Ideas:

Use the Opportunity Map tool to map out the 42 group homes and see how many are close to our church.

Find out if we have a foster family in our church and interview them.

Network with other churches to find out who we need to visit to find out more.

Let's invite others to make the visits with us and split up into teams.

See if there are any events specific to foster youth and sign up to volunteer. etc