



## 3.2.1 Group discussion questions



### Living faith

Our faith in God and the way our daily lives are shaped by it

Theme	Question
<b>Importance of faith</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Which different faith groups are part of this community?</li> <li>• Do people in this community think faith traditions are important?</li> <li>• Have you seen a change over time in the importance placed on faith traditions in your community? Why do you think this is?</li> </ul>
<b>Personal practice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What activities do people participate in to strengthen their personal faith? (eg prayer, meditation, the reading of religious writings, worship, acts of service)</li> </ul>
<b>Reliance on faith</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does your faith provide you with comfort in times of difficulty? If so, how?</li> <li>• Does your faith help you to make decisions? If so, how?</li> </ul>
<b>Acts of service</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you participate in acts of service with your faith group? (eg unpaid work for the benefit and betterment of the community) What kinds of activities do you participate in?</li> <li>• How common is it for people in the community to participate in acts of service to help others?</li> </ul>
<b>Role of faith institutions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What role do local faith institutions play in supporting your community?</li> <li>• Are there any other issues that you think faith institutions should be addressing?</li> </ul>
<b>Relationships between faith groups</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do different faith groups or denominations work together in your community, or is there conflict between groups? Can you give examples?</li> </ul>



The **Living faith** discussion questions can be explored from the perspective of any faith. We have also included below some specific questions for Christians and churches to reflect on how they are strengthening their Christian faith and how the church is responding to the holistic needs of the community, for example through church and community transformation (CCT) work.



## Additional Living faith questions for Christians and church groups

Theme	Question
<b>Growing in discipleship</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● How many people in the community identify as Christian?</li><li>● How many people go to church? Is church attendance increasing or decreasing? Why do you think this is?</li><li>● How have levels of giving to the church (in terms of time, money and skills) changed over the last year? Why do you think this is?</li><li>● When do you feel closest to God? Were there times you felt your faith was weaker or stronger? What has contributed to that?</li></ul>
<b>Discovering gifts and calling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● What gifts or talents do you believe God has given you? How do you use these?</li><li>● Have you ever felt God calling you to a particular ministry or service? How did you respond to that calling?</li><li>● How do you see people in your family and community living out the fruits of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control)?</li><li>● Which fruit of the Spirit do you think others witness most often in your life, and which do you want God to grow in you?</li></ul>
<b>Building relationships in communities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● As a Christian, what do you see as your responsibility to your community?</li><li>● How do you share God's good news with others?</li><li>● What do you think is the church's responsibility to the community? How well does your church live that out?</li><li>● Thinking about each of the nine aspects of wellbeing, what could your church do to bring positive change in each area?</li></ul> <p><i>CCT specific questions:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Has your church run a CCT process in this community? What did that involve?</li><li>● Have you been involved in that CCT process and, if so, how?</li><li>● How has an involvement in CCT had an impact on you/your church/your community?</li></ul>



## Social connections

The extent to which we connect with and support each other as a community

Theme	Question
<b>Group membership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● How many different community groups can you think of within this community? (eg sports groups, women's groups, savings groups, youth groups)</li><li>● What groups are you part of? How do you benefit from being part of these groups?</li><li>● Are these groups open for anyone to join, or are some closed to certain people?</li></ul>
<b>Exclusion/inclusion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Are all members of the community treated equally? (eg people from different faiths, cultural backgrounds, ages, genders or abilities)</li><li>● Are there any people who are excluded or marginalised in this community? Can you give any examples?</li></ul>
<b>Collaboration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● How common is it for the community to come together as a group to help people in need? Can you give an example?</li><li>● Is it common for people to have to overcome their challenges or problems alone?</li></ul>
<b>Support network</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● During times of difficulty, whose support do you feel comfortable asking for?</li><li>● When people in the community in general face difficulty, who do they rely on for support?</li></ul>
<b>Safety/protection</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Do you feel safe living in this community? Would other groups of people in the community feel the same way? (eg women, girls, the elderly, those living in poverty)</li><li>● Who or what would you say protects the community and keeps people safe?</li></ul>



## Personal relationships

The love, security and respect we find in marriages, families and close friendships

Theme	Question
<b>Satisfaction with close relationships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Who are the people you are closest to?</li><li>• Do you think people in this community would say that they have enough close relationships, or are some people lonely?</li><li>• What would you say are the qualities of a good relationship or friendship?</li><li>• How important do you think it is to invest in building strong relationships in your life?</li></ul>
<b>Feel respected</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How would you expect to be treated by someone close to you if they wanted to show you respect?</li><li>• Do you feel respected in your close relationships?</li></ul>
<b>Participation in decision-making</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How are decisions made in your household? Who is involved in making decisions?</li><li>• What decisions are you involved in making about your own life?</li></ul>
<b>Handling disagreement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Generally, how do people in the community resolve conflicts in their family?</li><li>• Do you feel that conflicts in your life or community are resolved fairly? Please explain if you can.</li><li>• How acceptable is it in your community for violence to be used between partners?</li></ul>
<b>Trust</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How do you know if you can trust someone? Do you have people you trust in your community?</li><li>• Do you talk to your partner, family or close friends about things that are important to you, such as your hopes and concerns?</li><li>• Generally, do people in your community trust each other?</li></ul>



## Participation and influence

Using our voice to influence decision-makers and make our communities a better place



Theme	Question
<b>Having a voice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Where do you feel most comfortable sharing your ideas and opinions? (eg at home, in church, at work, in community meetings) What is it about that space or environment that helps you feel comfortable to share?</li><li>● Do you think it is easier for certain types of people to express their ideas and opinions in this community? If so, which groups of people in your community have more of a voice and influence? (eg age, wealth, education, religion, gender)</li></ul>
<b>Collective agency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Do you believe this community can change things for the better by working together? Can you give examples of when your community has done this?</li><li>● Is there anything in this community that you would like to work together to change?</li></ul>
<b>Participation in influencing change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● If there was something in your community that you wanted to change, do you know how you would raise your concern with your local community or government representatives, or how you would make a request to them? How common is it for people to do this?</li><li>● Are there any groups of people who have more influence than others when it comes to raising concerns with people in power?</li></ul>
<b>Achieving change</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Do you feel decision-makers listen to your ideas? Can you give examples of how they have responded? Were you satisfied with the response?</li></ul>



## Emotional and mental wellbeing

How we feel about ourselves and the opportunities we see in our future

Theme	Question
<b>Sense of personal wellbeing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● What factors do you think are important for good emotional wellbeing?</li><li>● Generally, would you say that people in this community have good emotional wellbeing? (This could include feeling in good spirits, feeling calm most of the time, taking opportunities to be active, and having a daily rhythm that features things that interest them.) Please explain your answer if you can.</li></ul>
<b>Emotional support</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● What kind of things would you talk about with someone you trust?</li><li>● Do you think most people in the community have someone they could share their hopes or concerns with, or do people tend to keep things to themselves?</li></ul>
<b>Coping with stress</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● What responsibilities do you have in your life?</li><li>● Do you ever feel overwhelmed by your responsibilities? How do you cope with that stress?</li></ul>
<b>Hope for the future</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● What do you think the future will look like for this community? Do you feel things are getting better, or could be better in the future?</li><li>● What makes you feel hopeful? What do people feel hopeful about in this community?</li></ul>
<b>Sense of self-worth</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Do you feel you contribute to the lives of people around you?</li><li>● Do you think people in the community generally have a high sense of value or respect for themselves?</li><li>● Where does your personal sense of self-worth come from?</li></ul>



## Physical health

Looking after our bodies and having access to good-quality health services



Theme	Question
<b>Access to safe water</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where do most people in this community go to get drinking water?</li> <li>• How far do most people have to travel to access water?</li> <li>• Do people need to treat their water to make it safe to drink? If so, do people have all the resources they need to treat their water?</li> </ul>
<b>Hygiene and sanitation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How important do you think it is to wash your hands with soap (eg before eating, after using the toilet or after changing a nappy)? Why is it important (or not)?</li> </ul>
<b>Health status</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Which illnesses do members of your community commonly experience?</li> <li>• Are there certain types of people who are more likely to get sick than others?</li> </ul>
<b>Access to and quality of healthcare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do people usually go to a health facility to access healthcare? If not, what are some of the reasons why they don't?</li> <li>• How satisfied are people in this community with the quality of healthcare available? If you are not satisfied, what are some of the challenges to receiving better healthcare?</li> </ul>
<b>Balanced diet</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does a healthy diet look like for you? Generally, are people in your community able to access a healthy diet?</li> <li>• How much variety is there in your typical diet? Do you think it is important to have variety in your diet?</li> </ul>



## Material assets and resources

Using our creativity to make the most of our resources, make new resources, and share our resources with others

Theme	Question
<b>Land access and ownership</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who is able to access and own land in this community? Are there differences based on gender, age, ethnicity or other factors?</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Do people tend to have formal proof of land ownership?</li><li>● What other assets are important to people in this community? (eg livestock, home ownership or electricity) How many people have access to these types of assets?</li></ul>
<b>Food security</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Are there people who do not have enough food to meet their needs at certain points in the year? What are some of the reasons for this?</li></ul>
<b>Income and savings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● What are the most common sources of income in this community?</li><li>● Do people have the right skills to get a job or to make a living? Is it the same for all types of people?</li><li>● Have you been able to save money over the last year? Have you been able to use those savings to invest in anything?</li></ul>
<b>Coping mechanisms</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Are there people in this community who cannot pay for certain basic needs (such as medical costs, school fees, or enough meals each day) because they don't have enough income? What are some of the reasons for this?</li><li>● What options are available for people to access support when unexpected expenses occur? Are these formal or informal arrangements? Who has access to these?</li></ul>
<b>Financial inclusion</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● What sort of financial services does the community have access to? Do people have bank accounts, belong to savings groups or have access to loans? Does everyone have equal access?</li></ul>
<b>Attitudes towards resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Do you feel you have access to the resources you need to fulfil your plans and goals?</li><li>● How common is it for people in your community to share resources or give to someone who has less than them?</li></ul>





## Capabilities

Developing and using our gifts and skills to make a living, serve others, and bring about positive change in our lives

Theme	Question
<b>Ambition/vision</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● What does success look like to you?</li><li>● What goals or ambitions do you have for the future? (individually and as a community)</li></ul>
<b>Individual agency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Do you feel able to create the changes you want to see in your life? If so, how do you do this – or what stops you?</li><li>● Do you have any ideas for ways to overcome these barriers?</li></ul>
<b>Skills development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Which of your skills do you value the most?</li><li>● Have you been able to develop any new skills or expertise in the last year? How did you develop these skills?</li><li>● Are there any areas of your life where you are unable to make progress because you lack information, knowledge or skills?</li></ul>
<b>Knowledge transfer</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Do you share your knowledge or skills with others? How?</li><li>● Where can people in your community go to learn new skills?</li></ul>
<b>Access to and quality of education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● What value do you see in children and young people having an education?</li><li>● Do most children in this community go to school? Do similar numbers of boys and girls access education?</li><li>● If children do not go to school, what are some of the reasons for that?</li><li>● How good is the education provided in this community?</li></ul>



## Care of the environment

Looking after and enjoying the natural world, easing the risks and protecting resources for future generations

Theme	Question
<b>Awareness of environmental changes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What changes have you noticed in the climate or environment in this community in the last year?</li><li>• Have changes in the climate or the environment had an impact on any aspects of your daily life? Can you give examples?</li></ul>
<b>Disaster risk reduction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What are the main disaster risks for this area?</li><li>• Does your community have a disaster response plan? What is included in that plan?</li></ul>
<b>Adaptations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What actions have you taken as a community to respond to the challenges related to environmental degradation or climate change?</li><li>• What actions do you and your household take to care for the environment?</li></ul>
<b>Solid waste management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How does the community dispose of waste? Is this safe? Is it the best way to protect the environment?</li><li>• How often do you recycle things? (eg plastics)</li></ul>
<b>Tension over scarcity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Have you experienced any conflicts or disagreements over access to natural resources (eg land, water, forests) in this community?</li><li>• Have these conflicts been resolved and how?</li></ul>
<b>Access to natural resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Do you worry about the effects of climate change or environmental degradation on the availability of natural resources?</li><li>• Do you think your children or grandchildren will have access to the natural resources they need in the future?</li><li>• Do you ever spend time outdoors or enjoying nature for leisure? (eg go for exercise, see animals, play games outside, have a picnic outside) How common is it for people in the community to do this?</li></ul>