



# EQUIPPER

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Dear disciple on journey with Jesus:

As Christians, we are called to participate actively with Jesus in his ministry to multiply his disciples. Most of us are acquainted with what he is doing within the church. But what is Jesus doing among the *unchurched*?

Some unchurched people attended church in the past, but stopped. Others never attended. Some unchurched people are favorably inclined toward the church, but an increasing number see the church as irrelevant or even harmful.

So, back to my question: What is Jesus doing among the unchurched? And that raises a related question: How may we participate?

We see Jesus leading many unchurched people to a point of spiritual openness. Though many never think of attending church, many do desire to discuss matters of faith.

At the same time, we see Jesus leading evangelistically minded believers to form small groups that reach out to and include spiritually open, unchurched people. In GCI, we desire to equip some of our members to form and facilitate such groups. We call them *FaithTalk groups*. These evangelistic small groups are led by a couple of members (of any age), who invite into the group unchurched friends, neighbors, family, coworkers, fellow students, etc.

Because *FaithTalk groups* are designed to connect with unchurched people, they often begin as social gatherings, centered on a hobby, sport, vocation or other area of shared interest. How about a motorcycle-riding group? Or a 500 card game group? The possibilities are endless, but the goal is the same: to provide a safe place where relationships are built and meaningful discussion is engendered. Within such places, opportunity arises to begin talking about matters of faith. Throughout, Jesus is present in the Spirit and over time, opportunity arises for the group's facilitator(s) to make Jesus and his gospel known.

Check out further details on page two, and on our new *FaithTalk equipper* website at <http://faithtalkgroups.blogspot.com/>. See if you have interest in starting a *FaithTalk group*. If so, we are here to equip and support you.

Journeying with you,  
Dan Rogers, director, GCI Church Administration and Development

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Introducing FaithTalk groups
- 2 FaithTalk goals and resources

Outfitting churches, ministries, pastors and ministry leaders for ministry on journey with Jesus.

## FaithTalk goals

Our primary goal in providing resources for starting and facilitating *FaithTalk groups* is to equip GCI congregations with a helpful tool to assist them in connecting with unchurched people. A secondary goal is to provide a means for identifying people within our congregations who have skills and passions that may indicate a call from God to plant a new GCI church. Either way, *FaithTalk* is about evangelism and multiplication—key aspects of sharing in what Jesus is doing in the Spirit in and through his church.

## FaithTalk resources

GCI Church Administration and Development provides various resources to help interested members form and facilitate a *FaithTalk group*.

A primary way these resources are delivered is via the *FaithTalk equipper* website at <http://faithtalkgroups.blogspot.com/>. There you will find the following:

1. General information about *FaithTalk groups*.
2. Video training lessons with downloadable training guides. These lessons are designed to help you form and facilitate a *FaithTalk group*.

Training lesson #1 has a special message for church pastors. It is our recommendation that the pastor be actively involved in starting a *pilot FaithTalk group* within his or her congregation. In that way, he or she will gain personal experience with the use of this tool, and show support for the training of other facilitators and the starting of other *FaithTalk groups*.

Right now, there are eight training lessons. More will be added in the future. You can stream the videos on the *FaithTalk equipper* site, or download them from the internet (most are posted on YouTube) and watch them elsewhere.

For assistance with the training lessons, contact [Randy.Bloom@gci.org](mailto:Randy.Bloom@gci.org).

3. A variety of *FaithTalk* discussion guides. When a *FaithTalk group* gets to the point that holding discussions about faith issues is appropriate, these guides will provide assistance. Some of them are for discussions at a basic level. Others are for groups with more advanced knowledge of the Bible and related topics. Choose the guide that fits your group. We are always looking for additional resources, so let us know of any we have not listed (contact [Ted.Johnston@gci.org](mailto:Ted.Johnston@gci.org)).
4. A variety of *FaithTalk* related resources (books, etc.). This is a growing list of resources. If you know of others, please notify [Ted.Johnston@gci.org](mailto:Ted.Johnston@gci.org).

## FaithTalk equipper

Resources & training for FaithTalk group facilitators.



This blog is provided by the Ministry Development Team of Grace Communion International to help churches start and facilitate FaithTalk groups. Here you'll find discussion guides, training lessons and other resources (click on the tabs above).

We invite your participation using the "comments" feature on each page. Log into Blogger and post your comment directly, or email it and we'll post it for you.

For help with training, email [Randy Bloom](mailto:Randy.Bloom@gci.org). For help with discussion guides, email [Ted Johnston](mailto:Ted.Johnston@gci.org).

### Welcome to FaithTalk Equipper



This blog introduces FaithTalk groups and provides equipping for group facilitators.

FaithTalk groups are safe, caring places where unchurched people form relationships and discuss faith and life. As God leads, and with the assistance of a caring Christian facilitator, discussions turn to the gospel. As individuals show interest in following Jesus, they are invited into the fellowship of a local church - one attended by the facilitator, or perhaps one started with group participants.

There is no "one size fits all" way to form and facilitate a FaithTalk group. However, the focus is always on reaching and discipling spiritually interested, unchurched people - some previously churched, others never churched; some believers, others non-believers. A FaithTalk group meets them "where they are," and gives them a safe and meaningful community where they can journey with Jesus.

We welcome comments and questions concerning FaithTalk groups and the resources posted on the pages of this blog. Post your comments and questions using the comment feature below (see instructions at left).

1 comments