

FaithTalk Groups

Lesson 4: Group Facilitator Preparation Great Commandment/Great Commission Foundations

In this lesson we will explore the Great Commandment/Great Commission foundations for FT group leadership.

1. Foundation for FT groups

In their union AND communion with Jesus, Christians are to be engaged in the loving (Matt. 22:37-39) mission (Matt. 28:18-29) of the Father, Son and Spirit to the world (John 3:16). This mission can be expressed in this way:

Great Commandment (Matthew 22:37-39)

- Upward
- Inward

Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20)

- Outward
- Forward

- *Love for God and love for people, combined with a love for and participation in Jesus mission; these are they foundational characteristics needed for effectively facilitating FT groups.*

2. The “heart motivation” for FaithTalk group facilitators (Great Commandment/Great Commission priorities and applications for FT facilitators)

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself.”
— Matthew 22:37-39

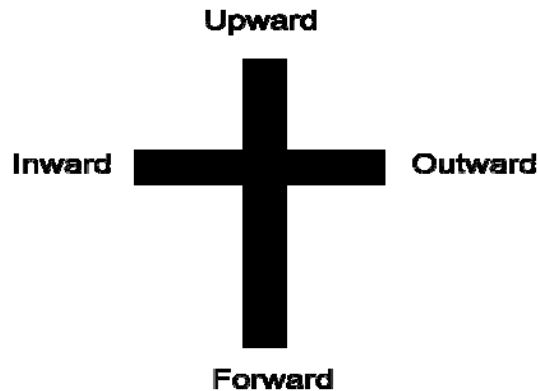
FT facilitators have the heart of a shepherd (John 10:11-15).

SHEPHERD	HIRED HAND
Cares enough to sacrifice	Quits when it gets tough
Knows sheep personally	Knows sheep as a flock
Close relationship with God	In it for personal gain
Heart for the sheep	Just doing the job

3. Characteristics of Shepherds

- A shepherd has a flock, not a class.
- A shepherd leads and does not coerce or “lord it over” people.
- A shepherd gets close to the sheep.

4. The shared experience of Great Commandment/Great Commission living



- **Upward – Love God** - Passion for and intimacy with God
- **Exercise:** Describe your personal life with Jesus – prayer, worship, study, quiet time

5. Inward – Effective FT facilitators love people.

Exercises:

- Describe your relationships with unchurched people and non-Christians.
- How do you love and serve them in tangible and relevant ways?
- How do you lead others to serve unchurched people?

6. Outward – on mission with Jesus - Matthew 28:19-20

Effective FT facilitators are personally involved in engaging the alienated world

- FT groups have a missional lifestyle.
- Group facilitators lead people to become missional”.

Question: How do you lead people to connect with (develop relationships with) unchurched people?

7. Forward – Effective FT facilitators know how to mobilize disciples (for the future)

- “Forward” takes place through equipping and releasing people for ministry and
- Identifying, equipping and releasing new small group leaders
- These lead to the multiplication of new disciples, new groups and (in some cases) new churches.

Question: How do you identify and train future small group leaders?

8. Forward – Multiplication

Effective FT facilitators advance the objectives and purposes for FT groups and advance the Kingdom by focusing on multiplication

- “Forward” takes place through multiplying
 - New disciples
 - New ministry leaders
 - New Ministries
 - New groups
 - New churches

Personal activity

- *With which component will you be most challenged as a group facilitator?*
- *What is your plan and process for facilitator and group multiplication?*
- *What help do you need to become a multiplying FT facilitator?*
- *What steps will you take to gain the experience or help that you need?*
- *Who do you know that could help you?*

Recommended resources

- *How to Lead a Great Cell Group Meeting* by Joel Comiskey, Introduction, Chapter 1
- *Leading From the Heart: A Group Leader’s Guide to a Passionate Ministry* by Michael Mack