



Leading and Growing an Adult Bible Fellowship Class

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What should happen in an Adult Bible Fellowship Class?

1. *Bible Study* (Teaching arm of the Church.)
2. *Inreach* (Reaching arm of the Church.)
3. *Outreach* (Winning arm of the Church)
4. *Ministry* (Maturing arm of the Church.)
5. *Prayer* (Caring arm of the Church)

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Adults' Spiritual and Social Needs

1. Adults need a personal relationship with God.
2. Adults need direction for their lives.
3. Adults need social relationships.
4. Adults need to help others.
5. Adults need to learn throughout life.

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To Lead an ABF Class you need to:

1. Know what the class is supposed to do
 - Equip people for ministry

The goal of equipping is to make people fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

- *Bring them in*
- *Grow them up*
- *Send them out*

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To Lead an ABF Class you need to:

2. Have a Plan

- A disorganized class will not grow or minister
- Plan your class weekly, monthly, and yearly
- The greater the participation in worker's meetings, the stronger the class – details need to be planned out in every class and class function

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To Lead an ABF Class you need to:

3. Create a Ministry Team

The greater the involvement ...the greater the ownership and participation.

- Always take advantage of training.
- Hold team accountable.

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To Lead an ABF Class you need to:

4. Recruit a Team

- Common mistakes in recruiting
 - use a sign-up sheet
 - talk to them in the halls before class
 - offer position to unfaithful people in hopes that they will become faithful
 - the #1 mistake- downplay the commitment

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☆ Enlist People to a Cause, not to fill a Position

First, Jesus enlisted them to something big.

- Jesus called the disciples to make a difference in this world.
- The call to leadership in the church should not be primarily to fill a position; it should be an invitation to join Jesus' team for the purpose of making a difference in the community and world.

Second, Jesus appealed to the disciples' desire for growth and development.

- Jesus said, "I will make you fishers of men." The call was not simply a challenge to follow, but a commitment to train. His call was a commitment to invest His life in the disciples so they might reach their God-given potential.

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Should growth be our purpose?

The Bible calls us to grow at every level

1. Acts 2:42 (the class)
2. 2 Peter 3: 18 (the individual)
3. 2 Timothy 2:2 (the teacher)
4. Matthew 28:20 (the church)

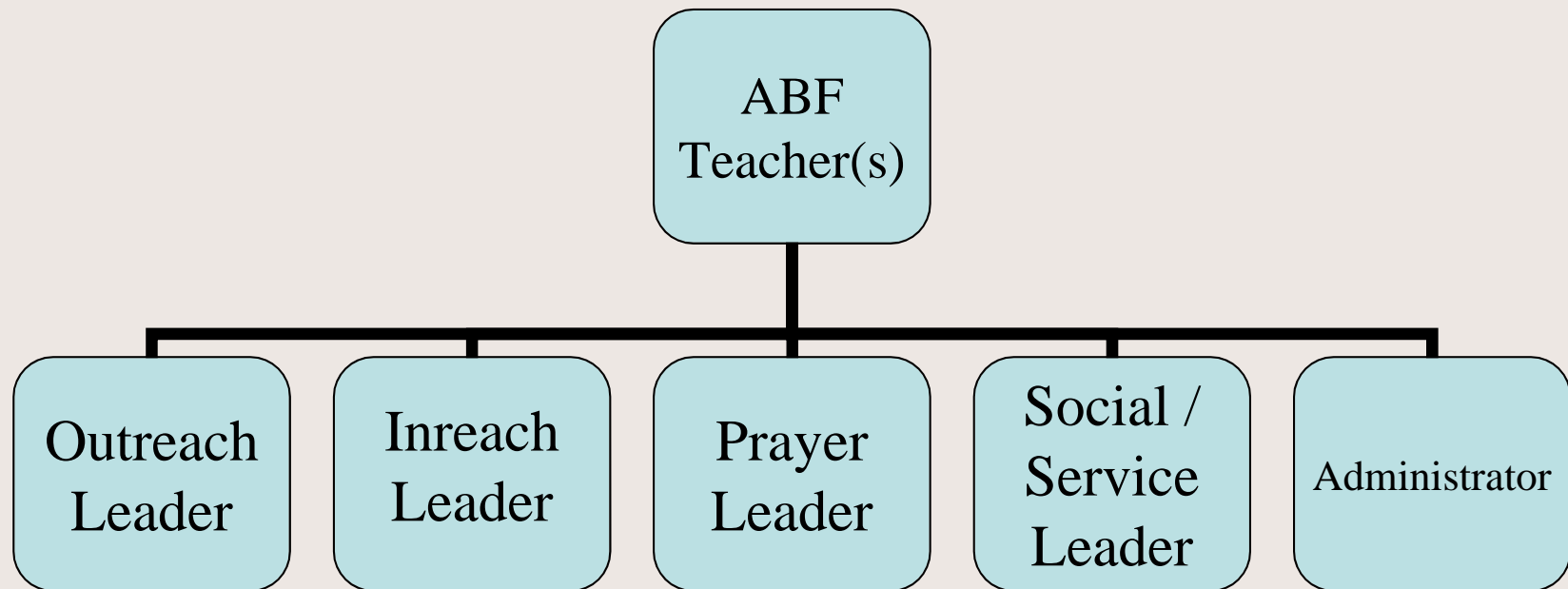
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Maintaining the Gains

For growth to continue, ABF classes must be evaluated, refined, and improved.

- **Getting people there:** *Are people coming?*
- **Receiving them:** *How are they welcomed?*
- **Assimilating them:** *Do they make friends and feel at home?*
- **Discipling them:** *Do they become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ; trained to minister and help other?*

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ABF Class Teacher

1. A teacher is a shepherd to the class. The three responsibilities of a pastor, implied in Acts 20:28-30 relate to an Adult Bible Fellowship teacher.
 - Lead a flock
 - Feed the flock
 - Care for the flock
2. God will hold teachers accountable to a higher standard

*Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment.
(James 3:1)*

ABF Class Teacher

3. Personal Example

- . Establish and maintain a consistent time of prayer and Bible study with the Lord.
- . Be conscious of personal desires and habits, as how they affect the ministry (i.e. entertainment, vocational practices).
- . Seek to be involved in discipleship classes and/or lead a evangelism team.

4. Class Involvement: Ministry Through Presence

- . Maintain high attendance in Sunday School, Sunday Team meetings, and Wednesday night CARE. (Presence is vital to leading.)
- . Be a regular part of class activities.

ABF Class Teacher

5. Teaching

- Adequately prepare to teach my lesson (minimum of 5-7 hours). Make personal application a high priority.
- Encourage, help, and pray for my lesson and co-teacher.
- Purpose myself to be a better teacher every time I teach.

6. Prayer

- Pray for my class and its growth, numerically and spiritually, at least once a week.
- Pray for the individual class needs.

7. Role Model

- Seek to show my class what the Christian life looks like.
- Be available to serve and minister the members and visitors in my class.
- Publicly promote and support our ministry and church. I will not speak negatively of the church or class.

ABF Class Administrator

Adult Class Administrator Responsibilities

- Be active in Wednesday night CARE
- Direct the overall work of the class
- Relieves the teacher of administrative responsibilities
- Works closely with the teacher and other leaders to ensure that all key areas of work are addressed appropriately and that the class is properly organized and mobilized for its mission of leading people to faith in Jesus Christ
- Builds Great Commission classes through involvement in evangelism, discipleship, fellowship and ministry.

ABF Outreach Leader

Outreach Leader Responsibilities

- Be active in Wednesday night CARE
- Coordinate all evangelism and outreach activities of the class
- Maintain class prospect records
- Coordinator the class efforts to contact and enroll prospects
- Maintain a record of every visitor to the class
- Update class leaders about the contacts made to prospects and the contacts that need to be made.
- Prioritize your prospects so that the ones who most need a visit get one.
- Recruit visitation teams from the class to visit each Wednesday night.

ABF Inreach Leader

Inreach Leader Responsibilities

- Be active in Wednesday night CARE
- Coordinate class efforts to minister to members in the event of death in the family, hospitalization or illness, new baby or a job situation through visits and prayer.
- Keep the church office informed as to how the class ministered in each situation.
- Pray regularly about the needs of the people in your class.
- Work to develop qualified people to serve as small group leaders.
- Visit members who are sick or bereaved.

ABF Social/Service Leader

Social / Service Responsibilities

- Plan all activities and social events for class
- Communicate to the class social events
- Responsible for one class-wide event every 6-8 weeks (minimum).
- Develop the fellowship time each Sunday preceding the lesson or following it.
- Submit calendar requests at least 2 weeks in advance. (This includes all events that take place at the church. This prevents scheduling overlap with church-wide events.)
- Organize and promote mission projects for the class.
- Promote the Men's and Women's Ministry events in class.

ABF Prayer Leader

Prayer Leader Responsibilities

- Coordinate and lead special prayer time during Sunday morning class.
- Organize requests and praises and distribute to class each week.
- Be a prayer warrior and encourager for the class.
- Attend training seminars and appropriate discipleship courses that will strengthen your work as Prayer leader.

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A Profound Principle

People will do what you INSPECT not what you EXPECT.

A Profound Statement

You do not have the right to bore someone with the Word of God.