



**What Brings People Back to an
Adult Bible Fellowship class?**

The Importance of Adult Bible Fellowship

Adult Bible Fellowship (ABF) can be a lot of things to different people: Bible study, a place to meet and make friends, a place of prayer, and a way to get involved in ministry. It is all of these things and more. Adult Bible Fellowship provides an enjoyable environment for people who are searching for more in their life through the study of God's Word. ABF is without a doubt one of the most important and exciting things we do at First Baptist Fort Mill.

What Brings People Back to an ABF class?

Once someone visits your class, what will help that person decide to return?

Building Relationships

The most frequent comment voiced by newcomers who do not return is that no one spoke to them or was friendly toward them. Class leaders must be intentional about drawing newcomers into the life of the class as soon as they enter the room. Someone should be enlisted specifically to welcome newcomers and to help them meet other class members. Find a "host" in your class who can sit with the newcomers in class and "adopt" them for the rest of the morning.

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Make Your Classroom "Warm"

A good first impression is also important—both with people and the classroom appearance. The appearance of the class creates an atmosphere that is felt as you enter a room. Chair arrangement, items on walls and other decorations create an impression. Make sure your room's silent message is positive and warm.

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Make Them Feel Important

Making newcomers feel important is vital. Here is a checklist to see if your class is accomplishing that task:

1. Are they accepted?
2. Do you call them by name once they have introduced themselves?
3. Does your class use nametags to make sure newcomers learn members' names more quickly?
4. Are they given the resources they need to fit in, such as member books, newsletters and so forth?
5. Are they invited to participate in any activities that might be discussed during the class they attend?
6. Are they invited to enroll during their first visit?

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Avoid Embarrassing Situations

Making newcomers feel welcome also includes avoiding embarrassing them. Never ask newcomers to read or pray aloud unless they volunteer to do so. Be careful what kind of questions you ask them to answer. Watch their expressions to see if something that is said causes an emotional response.

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Be Prepared

This should be a given, but making sure your lesson is well-prepared makes newcomers more comfortable in class. If a teacher can help a class flow well, use a variety of teaching approaches and generally make the class interesting and meaningful, then newcomers will want to return.