

SESSION 1:

MISSION

TEACHER REVIEW - SESSION 1

PREPARING FOR SESSION 1

In this session, you will be introducing Frontline’s mission to the participants. We want this session to feel like a good “first impression” for our church. It serves as a high-level, “30,000 feet” view of who we are and what we care about most. Whereas the other sessions will cover our theological distinctives and their impact on our church, this session addresses our church’s values, which forms our theological distinctives and philosophy of ministry.

If you are teaching this session, you will need to be prepared to:

- Welcome participants hospitably and give a general framework for the class
- Give away two or three prizes with icebreaker-style questions
- Play the Membership Intro Video
- Give a brief 1-2 minute snapshot of your congregation’s history and key moments
- Share the city partners for your specific congregation
- Lead an exercise on identifying and praying for your “three”

BIG IDEAS

- Class introduction and set-up
- Membership Intro Video
- The history of Frontline and your specific congregation
- Four shared values that shape our church:
 1. **Church For the City**
 2. **Inhabiting Tensions**
 3. **Integrated Theology**
 4. **Communion with God and Others**
- Frontline’s Mission: **Multiplying Gospel Communities that Love God, Love People, and Push Back Darkness**
- Four places shaped by our mission:
 1. **Sunday Gatherings**
 2. **Community Groups**
 3. **City Partners**
 4. **Church Planting and Strengthening**

SESSION TIMELINE: 50 MIN TOTAL

Welcome and Giveaways (5 min)

Membership Intro Video (5 min)

Who We Are: Values (10 min)

Mission (15 min)

Exercise: Praying For Your “Three” (15 min)

Session 1: Mission

FRONTLINE MEMBERSHIP CLASS

The values of Frontline Church are:

1.

2.

3.

4.

These values shape who we are and why we exist. We hold these values close and pray that we increasingly embody them together in gospel community.

Frontline Church's mission statement is:

Every aspect of our church is driven by this mission. It brings us together with one goal in mind. It reminds us why God has placed us here, and sets our eyes on that for which we collectively strive.

The four places that we can most clearly see Frontline's mission at work are:

1.

2.

3.

4.

The distinctives of Frontline Church are:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

✓ *Flip page for exercise.*



Exercise: Praying for Your Three

We invite all of our members to commit to their “three.” These are three people within your sphere of influence who do not follow Jesus or are not connected to a local church. We ask everyone to pray daily for their “three” and engage them in intentional gospel relationships. Your “three” could be your family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc. To help you identify and begin praying for your “three,” work through the following exercise together at your table.

Part 1: Identify Your “Three”

Take **3 minutes** to prayerfully select and write down the names of three people in your life who do not follow Jesus or are not connected to a local church.

Whom would you most love to see become a disciple of Jesus? Who is your heart best shaped to reach for Jesus? If you are having trouble identifying three people, just write down as many as you can.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Part 3: Pray Together

Take **3 minutes** to pray out loud for the people your table shared about.

Pray specifically for your relationship with them to grow, that God would give you creativity in how to spend regular time with them, and for God to provide opportunities for you to love them, serve them, and share the gospel with them.

Let's commit to continuing to pray for our “three” regularly. If you have started to attend a community group, be sure to share your “three” with your community group and invite them to join you in praying as well.

Part 2: Engage Your Three

Once you’ve each identified your “three,” pick just one of those three people and consider best how to engage them. Take **5 minutes** at your table to each answer in turn, out loud, the following questions posed by missiologist Alan Hirsch:

- ▶ Am I in close proximity with this person to whom I feel called?
- ▶ Am I spending regular time with this person? If not, why not?
- ▶ Am I too busy to develop a meaningful relationship with this person? If so, how could I create margin for mission?



SESSION 1: MISSION (50 MIN, 9:00-9:50a)

WELCOME AND GIVEAWAYS (5 MIN)

- Briefly introduce yourself with your name and position

Teacher Note: Welcome people to the membership class and thank them for coming.

To start off the membership class, ***give away two or three prizes.*** Make it festive and be creative in how you do it. The giveaways could be books, gift cards, or movie tickets. Try to keep it local, if possible, to support our city. Ask follow-up questions that would allow us all to get to know people better.

Sample questions:

- Who has had the most interesting, unique job?
- Who was most recently pulled over by the police?
- Who most recently started coming to Frontline?
- Who has been coming to Frontline the longest?
- Who has moved to Oklahoma most recently?

After the giveaways, briefly frame up what the class will look like. Include the general timeline, worksheets they have, etc...

- This video can be found at frontlinechurch.com/curriculum by clicking on the link for “Membership Intro Video”

MEMBERSHIP INTRO VIDEO (5 MIN)

Teacher Note: Play the Membership Intro Video where Josh Kouri explains the importance of membership.

WHO WE ARE: VALUES (10 MIN)

Frontline Church is one church, with multiple congregations. God has allowed Frontline to plant churches across the Oklahoma City metro and central Oklahoma, yet our shared story reminds us that God’s faithfulness has been the common thread across the years. Frontline gathered for the very first time on Easter Sunday 2005, with twenty people meeting in Josh and Nancy Kouri’s living room. In those early years, Frontline’s growth was exciting, challenging, chaotic, messy, and miraculous. The church eventually moved into the heart of OKC in Automobile Alley. The church was gritty, and the gospel of Jesus Christ was changing people.

TEACHER SIDEBAR

► Include the circumstances of planting, as well as any key points in your congregation's story.

► Stress this point. The italicized portion is listed in their worksheet.

► Fill in the Blank

God saved dozens of people at Frontline, and there was a sense of revival as people from all walks of life were baptized in our Sunday gatherings.

The church continued to grow and reach new communities around the metro, leading us to plant several Frontline congregations. In 2010, we started our first congregation, Frontline Shawnee. The very next year, in 2011, Frontline South opened its doors. That same year, our Frontline Downtown congregation moved into the First Christian Church cathedral on Robinson Ave. In 2014, we planted Frontline Edmond. Then, in 2020, Frontline Yukon was born.

Teacher Note: Take **1 or 2 minutes** to share about your specific congregation's history.

From the very beginning of our church, there have been several values that came to shape who we are and why we exist. We hold these values close, and pray they come out of our hearts as we live in community together. You can write these down in the blanks on your worksheets.

1. Church for the City

In our culture, we tend to see four different ways the church can posture itself toward the city.

First, there are churches against the city. A church that postures itself against the city has adopted a combative mentality. We build walls to keep the city out, only ever emerging to mount attacks.

Second, there are churches of the city. This kind of church adopts the identity of the city, thereby losing the unique and holy calling to be salt and light in the world. We have little to no discernment for how the city's values stand opposed to the teaching of Jesus.

The third posture are churches in the city. Here the overriding attitude toward the city is one of indifference. A church in the city shifts their focus inward, neglecting the mission of God to go and bless the world.

Lastly, there are churches for the city. As a church for the city, we maintain our unique identity as the people of God in the world, but we do so without retreating from the world. We actively go into the world and bless the city with the very presence of God.

TEACHER SIDEBAR

Since our inception, we have sought to be a church for the city, which is why we are named Frontline Church. Our name serves as a constant reminder that we are called to be on the front lines, engaging our city with the gospel and working for its good.

► Fill in the Blank

2. Inhabiting Tensions

We believe healthy churches inhabit tensions. In our polarized world, we often feel the pressure to pick sides, to define what “camp” we fall into. For instance, we might think we can either be a Spirit church or a Word church. We can either embrace God’s sovereignty or Man’s responsibility. Some might think that we have to choose between theological depth, or accessibility. We should either hold to ancient traditions or pursue modern innovations.

And the list goes on. But sometimes Scripture holds up a tension between two seemingly contradictory ideas. When that’s the case, we want to resist simply picking sides. This isn’t about passivity or moderation for its own sake. Instead, when the Scriptures present beauty and goodness in the tension, we want to live there. We don’t want to take an easy out when the Scriptures demand we walk the narrow path.

► Fill in the Blank

3. Integrated Theology

Theology is important to us at Frontline. It helps us to see God as he really is. You might see us read nerdy books or use big words, because we desire to learn more about God. But if we stop there, we miss out on so much more. Our beliefs can’t just live in our heads. They have to move down into our hearts. This is what we call integration. Integration aims to love God with all of our heart, mind, soul, and strength.

And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him.

“Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?” And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. (Mt 22:35–38)”

At Frontline, we believe that integrated theology shapes our loves and desires. It enables us to embody what we profess to believe. Theology moves from our head to our heart to our hands.

TEACHER SIDEBAR

We will find ourselves anchored in the midst of cultural storms as theology becomes firmly rooted in our very identity and lives.

► Fill in the Blank

4. Communion With God and People

We were made for communion. Deep within each one of us, there is a desire to belong to something bigger than ourselves. This desire is built into our DNA, into the way God made us. The God who created us has eternally existed in community as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This Triune God created us in his image, with a longing for relationship with him.

At Frontline, we believe that communion with the living God leads to communion with one another. We can move toward each other because we've been brought together into one body in Jesus. We can welcome each other as family because we already belong. This kind of community drives us beyond the temporary, rapid, and easy. It asks us to abide in deep, lasting relationships.

MISSION (15 MIN)

Our mission was birthed out of a desire to be a church shaped by these values. For us, the heart and soul of our church lies in our mission. This is why we exist. It drives all that we do. This is what we hold up as of first importance. The Mission of Frontline Church is...

► Fill in the Blank

Multiplying Gospel Communities that Love God, Love People, and Push Back Darkness

Let me repeat that so you can write it down.

Multiplying Gospel Communities that Love God, Love People, and Push Back Darkness

► Stress this point. The italicized portion is listed in their worksheet.

Every aspect of our church is driven by this mission. It brings us together with one goal and mind. It reminds us why God has placed us here, and sets our eyes on what we collectively strive for. It begins with multiplying gospel communities. We want to see gospel communities spread all over our city—communities that are together because of Jesus, under Jesus, with Jesus, and for Jesus.

TEACHER SIDEBAR

We are together because of his grace, under his authority, with his presence, and for his glory. Gospel communities should be marked by love for God and love for one another. This love drives us to move into the world and push back darkness by proclaiming the gospel and demonstrating the kingdom. Everything we do comes back to this mission.

There are four places we see this most clearly at Frontline. Again, you will write these down on your worksheets.

► Fill in the Blank

1. Sunday Gatherings

As we gather on Sundays, we engage as worshippers who grow in our love for God. During Sunday gatherings, the church comes together to worship Jesus, encourage one another, and intercede for the world. Week in and week out, we gather together to train our hearts to worship God above whatever else stole our attention, our hearts, and our worship that week. Each Sunday, we enter the new week by being reminded that we have been made new by the love of Jesus. We grow in our love for God as we hear the good news in singing, preaching, and sacrament.

Sunday gatherings enable us to love and encourage each other. We have become a family in Jesus. This new family identity is at the heart of the New Testament's commands to love one another, bear burdens with one another, encourage one another, confront each other, and so much more. When we confess sin or pray for each other during our gatherings, we practice loving each other. As we gather on Sundays, we engage as family.

In addition, Sunday gatherings are the leading edge of our mission to push back darkness. The Sunday gathering pushes back darkness as we invite our neighbors to come and hear the gospel. We push against our sinful urges to be consumers and to isolate ourselves. In praying for our city and world, we ask for God's kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven. As we gather on Sundays, we engage as missionaries.

► Fill in the Blank

2. Community Groups

What about the six days in between Sundays? One of the primary ways we engage our mission during the week is through community groups.

TEACHER SIDEBAR

Community Groups are local, diverse gospel communities that gather regularly for discipleship, care, and mission through discipleship groups, family meals, and missional gatherings.

Frontline is not just a church with community groups. Frontline is a church of community groups. Frontline community groups gather in three regular rhythms—discipleship groups, family meals, and missional gatherings. Each rhythm has its own function and goal.

Discipleship groups are gender-specific groups of three or four who gather regularly to know and encourage one another in their walk with Jesus. In healthy, gospel-centered discipleship groups, we grow in our love for God and each other.

Family meals are casual gatherings around a common table for the sake of community and gospel hospitality. As we linger over the meal, we listen, talk, and pray. These nights encourage love for each other, and give us opportunity for mission.

In missional gatherings, we gather for the sake of people far from God to proclaim the gospel and demonstrate the kingdom. They give us the opportunity to build relationships with those who don't follow Jesus and tell them how Jesus rescued us. They also give us the opportunity to care for the spiritual and physical needs of those in darkness around us.

► Fill in the Blank

3. City Partners

At Frontline, one of the ways we push back darkness in our city is by serving with our city partners. City partners are organizations thoughtfully chosen by each congregation as a place for missional impact. These partners are already doing the work to love people and push back darkness in our city. We want to wisely come alongside the places where we see God already working. As we serve the poor, marginalized, and needy in our communities, we build relationships within our city.

Teacher Note: Take **1 or 2 minutes** to identify your congregation's city partners and what kind of work they are doing in the city.

TEACHER SIDEBAR

► Fill in the Blank

4. Church Planting and Strengthening

We believe church planting and strengthening is one of the primary callings that God has given Frontline Church. Our world needs more healthy, gospel-centered churches engaging their cities and neighborhoods on mission. To that end, we give sacrificially to financially support church plants across the United States and the world. We build relationships with pastors and leaders in church plants. We provide training and resources for those who feel called to plant churches. We pray for and care for the health of pastors and leaders who are doing the hard work of planting churches. We are unashamedly a church-planting church.

In addition, we plant additional Frontline congregations across the OKC metropolitan area as God leads us. While maintaining a distinct, local uniqueness, all our congregations stand united as one church. We share one name, identity, vision, and mission. We work together and support one another. We are one church. But a Frontline congregation is not simply a “campus” of Frontline. Each Frontline congregation has their own elders, deacons, and leadership teams. There are unique initiatives we engage in our unique contexts. We are one church in multiple congregations.

As you experience the life of our church, in these four places and others, our hope is that you can start to see the way that our mission shapes everything we do as a church.

In addition to our mission and values we have five distinctives that we hold dear. The distinctives of Frontline Church are five core beliefs that we seek to embody. Write this down. Our distinctives are...

► Fill in the Blank

Gospel-Centered
Bible-Honoring
Kingdom-Focused
Spirit-Filled
Gender-Redeeming

Each distinctive describes a way of being. These beliefs are not unique to our church alone. However, we believe that God has called Frontline Church to faithfully embody these distinctives in this time and in this place. Through the remainder of our membership class, we will unpack each of these five distinctives, what they mean for the life of our church, and how we can seek to embody them together.

TEACHER SIDEBAR

EXERCISE: PRAYING FOR YOUR “THREE” (15 MIN)

- Keep track of time for people, either by setting a timer or keeping an eye on the clock.

TEACHER SET UP (2 MIN)

How can you partner with us in multiplying gospel communities that love God, love people, and push back darkness? One way is to grow in engaging the unbelievers and unchurched in your life. For many people, the thought of engaging unbelievers with the gospel can feel overwhelming. But it is important to remember a few things. First, we are limited beings, bound by time and space. We can't be everywhere for everyone. Second, God often uses ordinary relationships with ordinary Christians to draw an unbeliever's heart to him. If you can be a friend, you can be on mission. Third, Christians can take small steps to more faithfully engage in mission.

To this end, we invite all of our members to commit to their “three.” These are three people within your sphere of influence who do not follow Jesus or are not connected to a local church. We ask everyone to pray daily for their “three” and engage them in intentional gospel relationships. Your “three” could be your family, friends, co-workers, neighbors, etc. To help you identify and begin praying for your “three,” work through the following exercise together at your table.

- Encourage people to think outside of their immediate family first.

1. Identify Your “Three” (3 Min)

Take 3 minutes to prayerfully select and write down the names of **three people in your life who do not follow Jesus or are not connected to a local church**. Whom would you most love to see become a disciple of Jesus? Who is your heart best shaped to reach for Jesus? If you are having trouble identifying three people, just write down as many as you can.

- There are blanks in their worksheet to write down their “Three.”

2. Engage Your Three (5 Min)

Once you've each identified your “three,” pick just one of those three people to consider best how to engage them. Take 5 minutes at your table to each answer in turn, out loud, the following questions posed by missiologist Alan Hirsch:

TEACHER SIDEBAR

► Feel free to join a table and engage the discussion.

► Do not cut this step. This is one of the most important parts of this exercise.

- Am I in close proximity with this person to whom I feel called?
- Am I spending regular time with this person? If not, why not?
- Am I too busy to develop a meaningful relationship with this person? If so, how could I create margin for mission?

3. *Pray Together (3 Min)*

Take 3 minutes to pray out loud for the people your table shared about. Pray specifically for your relationship with them to grow, that God would give you creativity in how to spend regular time with them, and for God to provide opportunities for you to love them, serve them, and share the gospel with them.

POST-EXERCISE / SESSION WRAP UP

Let's commit to continuing to pray for our "three" regularly. If you have started to attend a community group, be sure to share your "three" with your community group and invite them to join you in praying as well.