

Home ABF Guidelines and Principles

Home Adult Bible Fellowships are a great way to build community at The Chapel. We are grateful you are considering the thrill of discipling others in this way. Home ABFs are similar in many ways to our traditional ABFs. The main difference is that they are located off-campus. The following principles will guide these community groups:

Qualifications for Leaders:

1. Chapel Membership.
2. Embrace Chapel ministry philosophy: Grace, Worship, Community, Mission, and Integrity.
3. Signed Covenant of Ministry on file.
4. Interview with Chapel pastors.

Skill Set:

1. Warm relationally.
2. Able to teach.

Guiding Principles:

1. Mentoring Discipleship
 - a. We believe that true discipleship occurs “life-on-life” according to 2Tim 2:2. Each Home ABF leader will invest in one other person or couple that will aspire to lead others.
2. Reproducing Groups
 - a. From these mentoring relationships, Home ABFs will be able to form new groups in the third year. In the first year, the facilitator will identify one or two with leadership potential and begin meeting with them one-on-one. Second year training will include practice-facilitating with the leader. At the beginning of the third year, these new leaders will lead their own group.
3. Three Components of Biblical Community
 - a. Equip – This element of community focuses on teaching biblical truth with application as the goal.
 - b. Care – Community is built on the “one anothers” from throughout the New Testament. Love one another. Serve one another. Carry one another’s burdens.
 - c. Outward Focused – We are called to serve and to use our gifts inside and outside the walls of the church. Our eyes should look to those outside the walls of the church and help them connect to Christ.
4. Evangelism
 - a. Closely tied to our outward focus is our heart for those disinterested in the gospel. Home ABFs are to be places where outsiders can come and seek. Lessons will not be dumbed down, but will remain focused on the believer.

Yet the terminology will be free of Christian jargon, so that seekers can be engaged.

Specific Details:

1. Populating
 - a. Home ABFs will be open to others joining the group, as opposed to a closed group that does not allow new guests.
 - b. Hosts and leaders will be encouraged to invite friends and acquaintances that live near them.
 - c. We will also send others their way when a potential attendee contacts us.
 - d. We do ask that hosts and leaders focus on inviting people who aren't in a Campus ABF.
2. When to Meet
 - a. Generally these groups will meet every other week.
 - b. Each Home ABF is free to choose any day of the week that works best for their attendees.
3. September through May Recommended
 - a. The group could choose to meet during the summer. However, September through May will help keep attendance regular and allow time to regroup for the following year.
4. Size 10-25
 - a. Groups are encouraged to stay within those numbers. Home space will limit group size.
5. Attendance
 - a. Home ABFs should report attendance on a monthly basis to their coach.
 - b. A roster should be kept and updated twice a year.
6. Meeting Format
 - a. The suggested format will be: 10 minutes mingling, 45 minutes discussion (DVD resource), 10 minutes of prayer, 30 minutes coffee and fellowship, for a total of about 1½ hours.
7. Curriculum
 - a. Home ABFs can be video driven. A 15- to 20-minute video lesson from a Chapel pastor is an option. Leaders will be provided with study guides for group members as well as a leader's guide.
 - b. The first year of curriculum will be supplied, and we ask that leaders cover this material from the DVD curriculum.
 - c. After the first year, leaders have the option of using their own study material. All curriculum choices must be approved by the Pastor of Community.
 - d. Either way, the focus will be on the Bible, not other books.
8. Membership
 - a. We ask that each leader have completed membership classes or be willing to go through membership classes in the next six months.

9. Kids

- a. We encourage parents to get a babysitter when the Home ABF meets. A few sitters can watch the children at another house while the adults enjoy uninterrupted time together.

Training & Coaching

1. Three Training meetings will be offered each year for the Home ABF leaders.
2. Leaders will have a coach, who will provide assistance to help them be successful.
3. Leaders will report to their coach via teaching logs, Home ABF Health Reports, and other information.
4. The coach will contact the Home ABF leader once a month and meet with the leader one-on-one four times a year to catch up and assist.

