

CORE Primer:

Membership Matters

Session 2: Part 2

Equipped to Serve @ FBC & How FBC Engages the World in Mission

[Slide 1: MEMBERSHIP MATTERS]

Welcome

Welcome back to our **LAST Session of Membership Matters!** Pat yourself on the back – you are **67% complete!!** Only **33% to go...**

Question: Have you all enjoyed your time learning more about First Baptist and how we do ministry?

- Our prayer is that this wasn't a waste of time.
 - That you learned something
 - And, possibly had a good time while you learned.

We're excited about everything God is doing at First Baptist and excited about what the future holds. Membership Matters is just one of those ways – it's new – but already God is using it as a method of drawing people closer to Him and strengthening His church!

Introduction

So, to end Membership Matters, we are going to discuss the most **actionable parts** of membership – **THE OUTFLOW**.

- You'll notice immediately that both of these topics are "**actionable**" meaning they require **ACTION on the part of the member**.
 1. **How First Baptist is Equipped to Serve** – specifically how God has equipped each of us with a spiritual gift to serve
 2. And, How First Baptist **engages the world in mission**.

So, let's get started –

[Slide 2: HOW FBC IS EQUIPPED]

How First Baptist is Equipped to Serve...

[Slide 3: QUICK QUESTION]

Quick Question –

- **How many PEOPLE do you think it requires to provide all of the ministries and services that happen on a typical Sunday morning?**

Each week as we all gather to worship there is a team of volunteers that work tirelessly behind the scenes to provide ministries to you, your children and all of our guests.

Think about the collective effort of all these individuals, working as one cohesive body - every Sunday morning [8:30-12] - all driven by the common goal of bringing glory to the Lord and benefiting our spiritual growth.

- **SUNDAY AM GRAND TOTAL = 117 | [320-350]**

[Slide 4: 1/3]

In any given week, the number of volunteers it takes to run ministries on Sunday morning and Wednesday evening alone equates to **approx. 1/3** of those who attend those times of worship and learning.

- And through His Holy Spirit, God has gifted each of these volunteers the ability to use their gifts for His glory.

We refer to these diverse gifts as **SPIRITUAL GIFTS!**

[Slide 5: WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL GIFTS?]

What are spiritual gifts?

Spiritual gifts are really gifts of grace that God gives through the Holy Spirit to edify, build-up, and strengthen His church.

- In effect, they are generous gifts given *to build-up the church*.

[Slide 6: FOUND IN SCRIPTURE?]

Are Spiritual Gifts found in Scripture?

[Slide 7: VARIETY]

Absolutely they are found in Scripture! From Scripture, we can see that God provides a **VARIETY** of gifts and abilities to His people to build-up His church.

- Paul discusses in: **Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 1:5; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 28-30; 1 Corinthians 13:1-3, 8-9; 1 Corinthians 14; and Ephesians 4:11.**
- and even Peter gets into the action in **1 Peter 4:9-11**

[Slide 8: WHO GIFTS ARE FROM AND WHEN TO BE USED]

Based on Scripture, **what unites these gifts is that they are** not **from** you, they are not **for** you and they are not **future** tense.

- **These gifts are not from you,** they are from God and they are to be used to honor God.
- **These gifts are not for you** they are to be used to serve and build up the local church.
- And, these gifts are not to be used in the **future tense**, **the expectation is that you use the gift NOW!**

That's why He gave the gift... **TO BE USED.**

So, some of you may be asking – How do I find out what my gift is – Or is there a way I can know my gift.

[Slide 9: BEST METHOD TO DISCOVER]

What is the best method for discovering my gift?

And, we're getting to that part of the session where everyone starts looking for the Gift Assessment – am I right?

- That's like the go-to in this situation – right?

Gift Assessments

There are a bunch of these out there on the internet... and for the most part, we love to take these assessments – BUT WE CHEAT...

We rate ourselves usually to the extreme high or low:

1. I have the ability to organize ideas, resources, time, and people effectively ... **yeah I'm a 5**
2. I am willing to study and prepare for the task of teaching – **yeah that sounds hard... 0**
3. I enjoy studying... **sounds like their asking me to teach - 0**
4. I tend to see potential in others... **dude all day! I'm a solid 5 on that one...**

Then we add all of the numbers in the assessment – get to the end - and say YES!!

- **I AM the one who distributes mercy!**
- **I AM the administrator!**
- **I AM the giver!**
- **OR I AM NOT the teacher or evangelist...**

And as a result, we “**work**” these assessments and based on this there are some problems with an assessment...

- *My wife said it would actually be more beneficial if someone else filled it out the assessment for you...*

[Slide 10: GET INVOLVED]

What we really encourage for you to do is step in... actively **participate** in the ministries of the church...

- **Participate** in a Community group
- Or, pay attention to wherever your God given gifts and your passions collide... unleash your gift and volunteer to **participate** in a ministry

We think that the more you interact with First Baptist, you will discover some things that FBC needs of you and you didn't think that was a **high priority gift of yours**

- But man, that's what FBC needs right now

[Slide 11: SERVING AT FBC]

Serving at FBC Portland

At FBC Portland, our hope that as you grow in Christ, that the Spirit will prompt you to put your gifts to work and make a difference in our church and community.

If you are a people person, we have several opportunities to plug-in and serve our church and community.

They include:

[Slide 12: GUEST SERVICES]

- **Volunteering with Guest Services –**

Guest Services helps to welcome individuals or families who are visiting FBC.

Whether they are guests visiting for the first time, regular attenders or members, **Guest Services** helps with:

- **Parking Lot:** Ensure safety of guests by assisting with traffic flow and pedestrian crossings. This includes placing signage, traffic and parking cones, and flags. Our parking lot attendants are the first face that guests see.
- **Guest Services:** Welcome guests who are visiting for the first time, escort them throughout the campus, and go past the “hello” to make their time at FBC personal.

- **Door Greeters:** Greeting people as they enter the building. **Not necessarily “door ninjas”** but connecting with guests and assisting in any needs or answering questions they have.
- **Crossings Café:** Crossings Café is FBC’s Sunday morning service which offers coffee and breakfast items to the church body. If you’re new to FBC, this is a great way to serve and learn more about the people who call FBC home.
- **And Ushers:** Welcome guests into the worship center and assist them in finding a seat.

[Slide 13: SAFETY TEAM]

If you have professional experience in healthcare, or safety, then we have opportunities to work with our Safety Team.

- **FBC’s Safety Team** is made up of medical and security personnel who are able to perform essential safety functions. This team utilizes their experience and giftedness to maintain the overall safety for everyone on campus.

[Slide 14: CREATIVE/ WORSHIP]

If you have musical or creative abilities, then we have opportunities to work with our FBC Worship and Creative Teams.

- **FBC’s Worship Team** – Use your musical talent to serve in various opportunities including Sunday morning worship, FBC Kids, and FBC Students.
- **Volunteer with Creative Team** – Use your talents in audio/ video production to help with sound, video and other creative elements. Our Creative Team volunteers include **photographers and videographers** as well as social media volunteers who chat with those watching our live stream on Facebook Live.

Obviously with our worship team, you need to have musical talent and skills. And production requires some technical training such as running a camera. But there are also roles as simple as pushing a button at the right time to show lyrics up on the screens.

The same creative team opportunities exist in our NextGen ministries.

[Slide 15: NEXT GEN]

Our **NextGen ministry** includes ages birth – high school. While being a part of NextGen doesn't exclusively involve teaching our kids or students, there are various alternative ways you can contribute and serve the community.

- **Volunteering in our nursery and FBC Kids**

- We have in-classroom opportunities for individuals who want to build community in the classroom and for assistants to help children from infancy through 5th grade.
 - Also, we have opportunities for Teachers who don't mind studying a short/ interactive lesson to help kids grow in their knowledge of Jesus and learn biblical truth.
- **Even if** you don't think you are good with children, you can still help with "check-in" OR check-in assistants in our FBC Kids department.
- **Volunteering with FBC Students**
 - We have group leader opportunities *as well as* assistant group leader responsibilities to help students from 6th grade through High School navigate life's challenges and grow in their personal discipleship journey.
- **Again, if you prefer to be a person behind the scenes, there are opportunities to help our kids and student ministry by preparing materials OR coordinating activities.**

Our Adult Community Groups are growing! Because of this, we are always looking for those who can teach/ facilitate or assist those who can teach/ facilitate.

[Slide 16: LINKED UP]

And, if you're still not sure how you can help out, we typically hold an event once every six months **called Linked-Up**. Linked-Up will give you an opportunity to sign-up for a "test drive" in a specific service opportunity before you commit to the ministry.

Any questions?

**Session Conclusion
Putting it all together**

As we wrap up Equipped to Serve, I would like to direct you to the screens above. We have asked a couple of our members who have served in various ministries to give all of us an idea of where they started –their "first yes" – and how saying yes that first time has eventually led them to other ministries. This should leave you with a final thought of how one believer **exercising their giftedness** can affect the local church.

IT ALL STARTS WITH YOUR FIRST YES!

[Slide: Testimonials]

[12:00 minutes]

[Slide 18: TITLE SLIDE]

[Slide 19: ENGAGE THE WORLD]

Session 3 – Part 2: Engage the World – Missions and Outreach

Introduction

We're almost finished!

If you remember in **Session 2: Discover FBC**, you learned that FBC has served Portland for over 130+ years. During this time, God has allowed First Baptist to make a difference in our church, in our community & outside of the 37148.

[Slide 20: WHENEVER & WHEREVER]

This is important for us, because we believe that the Gospel makes a difference, **whenever** and **wherever** we share it.

During this last part, we will spend time discussing practical opportunities for you to engage the world around you.

We believe you will be blown away by how God wants to use you to grow His Kingdom, and the potential ways the Holy Spirit will use your unique gifts and efforts to **make a gospel difference** for His kingdom.

[Slide 21: MAKE A GOSPEL DIFFERENCE]

What Does it Mean to Make a Gospel Difference?

Specifically, what does it mean to make a difference in the lives of others for the glory of God.

[Slide 22: MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN US AND OTHERS]

Here's the **first thing** I want you to get. God has made a difference in **us**, and calls us to make a difference in **others**.

We see the first part of this in 2 Corinthians 5:17-19a says:

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come! ¹⁸ Everything is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. ¹⁹ That is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them,

He made a difference in us:

- New Creation
- Old has passed away – new has come...
- He reconciled us to Himself – He didn't count our trespasses against us...

But don't miss the second half of our statement. **God makes a difference in us, and then calls us to make a difference in others...**

Look at what **2 Corinthians 5:19b-20** says:

and he has committed the message of reconciliation to us.²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us. We plead on Christ's behalf, "Be reconciled to God."

He has committed the message of reconciliation to us.

[Slide 23: GOD CAN USE YOU TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE]

So, what does that mean?

- This means, that we embody a **visible** picture of the gospel – we're His ambassadors
- And, **God can use you to make a difference.**

Be honest, some of us really struggle with this. Because it's hard!

So, where do we start?

[Slide 24: WHO'S YOUR ONE]

Who's Your One?

A great place to start is with this, **Who's Your One?**

Who is the ONE person that God has placed in your life that you know is far from God and doesn't have a relationship with Jesus Christ?

[Slide 25: ACTION WITH WHOS YOUR ONE]

Think about that for a second. Who is that One person you know?

- Who is the one who you can **share** the Gospel?
- Who's the one that you can **pray** for daily?
- Who's the one you can **invest** in weekly?
- Who's the one you can **invite** to come with you to FBC to hear the Gospel being preached AND see how the people of God worship Him?

You have that person in your head? That person, that name that is coming to your mind... **THAT IS YOUR ONE.**

[Slide 26: WRITE DOWN THE ONE PERSON GOD HAS PLACED IN YOUR LIFE]

Who is the ONE person that God has placed in your life that you know is far from God and doesn't have a relationship with Jesus Christ?

[Slide 27: COMMIT TO 3 THINGS]

Once you have their name down, here is what we would like for you to do. We want you to commit to doing **three [3] things:**

- We want you to **pray daily** for your ONE: Ask God to use you to share the Gospel with your ONE...
- **Invest weekly** in your ONE: We want you to intentionally look to build trust with your ONE and share Christ's love with your ONE [1 Corinthians 9:19-23] – which creates more opportunities to share the Gospel.
- Last, as you pray & invest, we want you to **invite** your ONE to attend FBC Portland with you or your Community Group.
 - FBC is a place where the message of the Gospel is regularly sung, preached and displayed through the Lord's Supper and Baptisms.

[Slide 28: THE FOUR]

The Four

So, now that you have your ONE in mind, the next question you should be asking is how do I share the gospel with them? **Enter "The Four."**

[Slide 29: EXPLANATION OF THE FOUR]

The Four utilizes four [4] symbols to represent the four [4] points of the gospel in a clear and easy-to-remember way.

- **The first symbol** – the heart – explains that God **loves** every human being.
- **The second symbol** – a division symbol – explains that we are **separated** from God through our sins and failures.
- **The third symbol** – the cross – represents God's **solution** for our sin.
- **And, the fourth symbol** – the question mark – asks, **"How will you respond?"**

I want to encourage you to **pick up a bracelet... pick up a card** and start learning these steps today.

Any questions?

[Slide 30: FBC'S ROLE IN MISSIONS]

FIRST BAPTIST'S ROLE IN MISSIONS

We've discussed some ways that you can evangelize those around you. Now we want to focus on 4 steps that FBC is taking in regards to missions.

[Slide 31: EMPOWER]

Role 1: **Empower** Every Member for Mission

Recognize that every member of the church has a unique role to play in mission work. Empower individuals to discover and utilize their God-given gifts and talents for the advancement of the Gospel.

- Are you a person who is good at building or repairing?
- Are you a person who is willing to work hard labor?
- Are you a person who has a medical background?
- Whatever your talent is, God has created opportunities for you to use that gift that He has equipped you with for His glory.

Local mission opportunities – **THE 37148**

- We provide benevolence to under resourced church members and community members by giving out food, or collecting, or donating or investing in the lives of some great people.

[Slide 32: BACKPACK MINISTRY]

- We have a **backpack ministry** that works with local schools to feed underprivileged kids over the weekend. – **ANITA ELLIS**

[Slide 33: SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM]

- We have a **summer feeding program** where volunteers go into the community around us to provide a lunch to school aged children and then present a Bible story. – **JESSICA SHADOWENS**

[Slide 34: FOSTER CHILDREN]

- We have a ministry that works with parents who are involved in **fostering children** CALLED CARING COMMUNITY. – **KATHRYN LANGLEY**

[Slide 35: LOCAL NON PROFITS]

- We **support local not-for-profits** who help the community we serve. [CARES, WAYMAKERS, FOOD PANTRIES] **SHERRY SHAUB & DAVID COLE**

[Slide 36: WHEEL CHAIR RAMPS]

- We have a team that regularly goes out into the community to **build wheel chair ramps** – **DAVID COLE**

[Slide 37: WOMEN ON MISSION]

- And our very own **Women on Mission** who utilize their passion for mission and their gift in making crafts to raise money for our missionaries. **CARLA PENTECOST.**

When every believer understands their contribution to the mission, the church becomes a dynamic force for positive change in the world.

[Slide 38: LIFESTYLE]

Role 2: Foster a Missions Lifestyle

In the **Fall of 2023**, **Pastor Jacob** stood before the church and stated he was praying for First Baptist to foster a missions lifestyle – to live a life on mission. In order to accomplish this vision, he laid out four steps that every member of First Baptist could be a part.

[Slide 39: PRAY GIVE GO SEND]

They were:

1. **Pray:** We pray for the nations, those missionaries in the field and for those who are unreached people groups.
2. **Give:** Those who can't go can always give. The work of missions is expensive, but God provides through the church's giving. [**First Family; NAMB – Annie Armstrong; IMB – Lottie Moon**]
3. **Go:** Jesus called us to “go” and “make disciples.” We're going **talk about this in just a moment...**
4. **And, Send:** The church is going to be openhanded with our resources... including our best people. Missionaries are developed and sent from within.

[Slide 40: EDUCATION]

Role 3: Prioritize Mission Education

[Slide 41: INTENTIONAL EVANGELISM]

In the fall of 2023, First Baptist started CORE Seminars on Sunday night. One of the seminars that was covered was titled *Intentional Evangelism*. This was a basic course intended to introduce the necessary components of how to share your faith with others.

[Slide 42: SECRET CHURCH]

On April 19th, we will host a simulcast event here at First Baptist called Secret Church. David Platt is the host and speaker. This is an event he hosts every year and it mirrors his days as a missionary in China. If you have read the book, *Radical*, you will know what I am referring to. But David would travel under the cover of darkness and would teach the Bible all night long to those who were thirst to hear more of God's Word. In every instance, David did this in secret and often under the glow of a single light bulb. This is how Secret Church was formed. It is a deep study of a book of the Bible, **this year it's the book of Ruth**, and praying for the persecuted church, **this year it is the church in North Korea**. This will make, Jan and my 4th Secret Church. I would encourage you to read the book *Radical* to help prepare you for that night.

We also have an eye toward future training sessions, inviting missionaries to speak to First Baptist and creating opportunities for speakers to come here in a conference type setting.

[Slide 43: ACTION]

Role 4: Cultivate a Culture of **Action**

Also, in 2023, Pastor Jacob provided the Missions Team with four [4] categories of mission trips intended to encourage the members at First Baptist to step out in faith toward mission.

These four categories were designed to shift the focus from self-serving faith to a faith that flows outward, to provide practical opportunities for outreach, both locally and globally.

They are:

[Slide 44: TBCH]

1. **Cat 1 - Easy Domestic:** This is the easiest way for someone to get introduced to domestic missions. It is not too far from home is not as intensive as other trips can be. [Example: Tennessee Baptist Children's Home in Millington, TN/ Brentwood, TN]

[Slide 45: JAMAICA DEAF VILLAGE]

2. **Cat 2 - Easy International:** This is the easiest way for someone to get introduced to international mission. It is an out-of-country trip that is intended to open one's eyes that God is a God of all nations. [Example: Jamaica Deaf Village]

[Slide 46: NAMB AND GLOBAL GATES]

3. **Cat 3 – More Intense Domestic:** This is a domestic trip that is more intensive than a Cat 1 trip. There may be longer travel and more purposeful evangelism. This is for those with missions experience. [Examples: Working with Bud Houston in Dallas, TX as he evangelizes Muslim Refugee populations; working with NAMB SendRelief and refugee populations in Clarkston, GA]

[Slide 47: HONDURAS]

4. **Cat 4 – More Intense International:** This is an international trip that is more intensive than a Cat 2 trip. It will require longer travel and will be reserved for those with international missions experience. [Examples: Honduras]

[Slide 48: WHAT ROLE WILL YOU PLAY]

What Role will You Play?

Matthew 28:18-20 is known as the Great Commission, and in this commission Jesus' commanded not only His disciples to "make disciples of all nations," but He also commands every past, present and future disciple to "make disciples of **all** nations."

- **ALL NATIONS...** A study in 2021 showed that out of the 7.7 billion people in the world, a staggering 3.23 billion remain unreached by the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- **This is 41.7 per cent!**¹

We – the church – have a lot of work to do!

[Slide 49: VIDEO OF ROLE IN MISSIONS]

Video [Based on Time]

So, What's Next?

Once you see all that God wants to do in and through you here, you can't help but want to get off the sidelines and be a part of our family here at FBC Portland. Becoming a member means that you're committing to being an active part of the work God is doing here, and

¹ <https://www.catchthefire.com/blog/have-we-become-fat-christians>

giving us the opportunity to commit to care for you. Being a church member is one of the best ways you can put your gifts to work and make a difference here and in our community.

[Slide 50: NEXT STEP]

We have only a few simple requirements for membership:

1. You have entered into a saving relationship with Jesus [The most important thing!]
2. You have been biblically baptized by immersion.
3. You have completed all sessions of Membership Matters. **CHECK!**
4. You have completed an interview with a church elder or deacon [We want to hear your story!] We can't wait to hear your story and commit to caring for you as your official church family.