
FAITH at WORK

TEMPLATE AND NOTES FOR RUNNING FAITH@WORK BUSINESS SUPPORT SESSIONS

We're excited to join you on this journey in creating community amongst Entrepreneurs and Businessmen in your church!

In this document we will set out some pointers, to assist you in running your own groups. This is however a guideline, and we encourage Facilitators to pray before sessions, and to be led by the holy spirit in every meeting.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE WEEKLY SESSIONS

1) Support: Information/ videos can be found on the Faith@work webpage-Keep an eye out for weekly videos that you can use in discussion, if pertinent. Promote a positive Attitude of Faith and hope. Share words, and verses from the Bible that are relevant or on your heart.

2) Connect with other Christians/ great networking opportunity. Networking will occur naturally. If you have multiple groups, it is recommended that Facilitators meet regularly and share notes, as there may be opportunities for networking between groups.

3) Mobilize: Get Businessmen/ women researching/ looking for solutions/ sharing information. Create a culture in the group which encourages out of the box thinking and problem solving, through research.

TEMPLATE FOR THE SESSIONS

- **How are you doing?** Go around the group and get feedback from each person (this does not necessarily need to be about business. When group members are comfortable, a certain level of vulnerability is good).
- **Discussion on how everyone is dealing with the current challenges:** How many of you have applied for UIF, funding etc (anything practical and topical). Anything different? How/ what?
- **What are you doing about your situation?**
Whilst "waiting", what are your Priorities? What can you do now, that will impact your chances of success in the future? The Aim is to get entrepreneurs thinking in a systematic, wise manner.
- Discussion on a specific, pertinent topic, if you have time e.g. what is the right way to deal with tenants that won't pay? How should we deal with this as Christians? Encourage real, honest discussion.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

- In your first session you may want everyone to explain who they are, about their businesses, and what their current challenges are. Make notes as the facilitator.
- In the first session express some ground rules.
- We recommend that no one speaks for more than 90 seconds at a time. Teach the group how to use the “chat” function, and questions can be put on the forum whilst others are chatting. In the first session we recommend that you ask attendees to write down what their expectations are from the sessions.
- To start off, people will most likely not speak, unless they are chosen (it’s the awkward dynamic of video calls). As the facilitator, ensure that you take control and at times ask people for their opinion/ to speak.
- If you are part of a team of facilitators, schedule weekly debriefs.
- Although we have provided a basic template, feel free to set aside some time (towards the end of the session) to cover specific topics, that you feel are relevant to the group.
- You are not expected to be an expert in everything business! Point people to resources that may assist them, or if you can’t assist, ask that person if he/ she can give the group feedback the next week after doing the research.
- Your role as the facilitator is NOT to do all of the talking. The most talking that you do will be in the first session where you may like to set out the ground rules, and goals of the group going forward.
- Stick to 40 minutes per session.
- If you feel it on your heart that there is an attendee who you would like to provide assistance, discuss with your Pastor if there are resources available to help that individual. Having said that, do not put pressure on yourself or create expectations that are unrealistic. Your function is to facilitate these sessions.
- Faith@work has developed systems for running mentoring in your church. Should you be interested in developing mentors, please contact us at business@otc.org.za

We hope this information helps!

The Faith@work team