



# **Acting on Faith:**

## **The Acts of the Apostles and Today's Christian Families**

### **2012 OLW CFM Leader Training**

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# OLW CFM 2012-2013

- Calendar Review
- Acting on Faith Book
- Social Actions
- Online Resources
  - [www.cfm.org](http://www.cfm.org) (Select USA version)
    - go to Leaders >> Secure Info >> Login
  - [www.olwparish.org](http://www.olwparish.org)
    - go to Happenings >> CFM



# Observe, Judge, Act

## The Foundation of the Meeting

### Observe

- Get the facts
- Collect the data
- What's happening out there?

### Judge

- Not to judge a person sinful or holy
- Are our actions in line with what Jesus would want us to do?

### Act

- Make a Difference!



# Observe, Judge, Act Applies to Leading the Meeting

## As Leaders

- Observe your group, its dynamics and the individuals in your group
- Judge the meeting environment and the value you perceive in each meeting
- Act to make each meeting a positive experience and make the necessary adjustments for future meetings



# The Meeting: Everyone has a Role

- **Leaders**

- Prepare for the meeting
- Facilitate good discussion and participation
- Create welcoming environment
- Gain commitment for action
- Keep in touch

- **Members**

- Make meetings a priority
- Embrace newcomers
- Participate in activities
- Host a meeting
- Help each other grow



# Tips for Leading the Meeting

- Read through the lesson together and decide how you'll share the "leadership"
- Start on time and end on time. Social time after the discussion is also important for the building of community!
- Be aware of the time and "keep it rolling" in order to progress from OBSERVE to JUDGE to ACT. If you're spending more time on one question, call a "time out" to get on track or skip a question or two to keep things moving.
- CFM uses OPEN SHARING for discussion... which means leave the response open to the group.
- Don't be afraid of silence! Often people need time to organize their thoughts before they respond. Leave time for this to happen.



# Preparing for the Meeting

- **Read the chapter!**
  - Go to the Leaders Meeting with questions and comments
- Call the meeting host one week before
  - Confirm the chapter number
  - Share any special instructions relevant to the meeting
  - Remind them to prepare an opening and closing prayer
  - Make sure they will call all the group members to confirm attendance, share instructions and provide driving directions
  - Check to see if help is needed with refreshments -- remind them to keep these light (e.g., snacks, dessert and drinks)
  - Ask them to call you on Thursday to confirm attendance numbers
- After the meeting, arrange for delivery of important information to those who missed



# Typical Meeting Agenda

- **8:00-8:15 pm** Social/Greeting Time
- **8:15-8:30 pm** Business Meeting
  - Keep this as short as possible!
  - Share flyers
  - Conduct signups
  - Hit the high notes of the announcements
  - Keep it moving!!
- **8:30 pm** Discussion
  - Opening prayer – host couple
  - Chapter reading and discussion – you facilitate
  - Follow up on actions from previous meeting
  - Preview next chapter and remind people to read!!
  - Closing Prayer – host couple
  - Break by 10 pm – be aware of “babysitter” issues
- **10 pm** Social Time



# Getting Your Group to *Gel*

- **Every Group is Different**
  - It takes 3 or 4 meetings for groups to gel
  - Use nametags, icebreakers to help
  - If someone misses a meeting, follow-up soon so they don't lose touch
- **Attendance is Important**
  - Groups are successful when the meetings are well attended
  - Communicate the necessity of attendance to your group, and lead by example
  - Use active time management
  - Be prepared, but also flexible to the direction the group takes
- **Be Positive**
  - Don't let meetings turn into gripe sessions. Focus on positive actions
  - Remember not everyone in your group is married, has children or attends the same school
- **Embrace spirituality**
  - Start and end your meetings with group prayer circle
  - Offer an opportunity for group prayer or reflection
  - Include opportunity for Intercessory prayer at the end of the meeting
- **Confidentiality**
  - Inform and remind members that what is said in meeting is confidential



# How to be an Effective Leader

- **Delegate!** Make sure everyone plays a role and helps with activities (e.g., Social Events)
- **Don't forget to Act**
  - Encourage group actions based upon each chapter
  - Make time for group or individual action sharing
- **Ask sharing questions**
  - People like to talk about their own life experiences if asked
  - Avoid questions designed to directly challenge an opinion of a group member
- **Keep the discussion focused on the subject**
  - This is tricky! Be polite, but move the discussion quickly off tangents (“That’s a good topic that we can pick up on in our social time, but let’s refocus on the issue we have before us...”)



# How to be an Effective Leader

- **Work hard to remember group members' names!**
  - Shows respect and caring; makes everyone feel welcome
- **Recognize destructive or negative behavior**
  - Respectfully remind people of the ground rules
  - Focus on sharing experiences and avoid debating opinions
  - Don't recognize any opinion as right or wrong
- **Do not try to be the problem-solver or answer-couple: Be the Facilitator!**



# How to be an Effective Leader

- **Don't let the group be dominated by individuals**
  - Move to others (“That’s an interesting point, and I think it would be interesting to hear from someone who has a different perspective or experience...”)
- **Keep the focus on God!**
  - Verbally acknowledge the Holy Spirit’s presence
  - Trust in the goodness of the group members



# Ice-Breaker Ideas for First Meeting

- Ice breakers help ease the strain of the first meeting, especially if people don't know one another too well. Here's a few suggestions:
  - 2 Truths and a Tale – provide time for each person to write down 3 items (2 true, 1 false) about themselves. Once shared, it's fun and can be quite an insightful experience.
  - Sharing – share 1 of the following items with the group:
    - Something funny that happened on your wedding day
    - What family trip you enjoyed the most
    - A funny incident that happened with the children
    - What kind of job you would really like to have
    - A hobby, or what you enjoy doing most
    - Your partners most endearing quality



# So What Do We Do Now?

- **Prepare for the first group meeting**
  - Contact the mentor couple to host the first meeting
  - Hand-deliver folders/books to members in your group. Welcome them to CFM and your group. Remind them to Bring their Checkbook to the First Meeting (they need to pay for CFM Membership). \*\*\*Be sure to include a letter that indicates meeting location/date/time, as well as dues.
  - Arrange for a “refreshment helper couple”, if needed
  - Prepare an ice-breaker
  - Prepare host sign-up sheet
  - Once membership is paid, ask them to write their names on their folders & books
  - Collect Enrollment forms with dues, and return to Treasurers (Tony & Mona Russo)



# You are Christian Family Movement

- **You** promote Christ-centered marriage and family life
- **You** help individuals, and their families, to live the Christian faith in everyday life.
- **You** improve society through actions of love, service, education and example
- **We** Thank You for your Service to this Ministry



# Go Forth in Peace and Joy

## Closing Prayer

Lord, where shall I find you?  
High and hidden is your place.  
And where shall I not find you?  
The world is full of your glory.

I have sought your nearness,  
With all my heart I called you  
And in going out to meet you  
I found you coming in to meet me.

*Judah Halebi*