



ABOUT FQ

[WHO WE ARE](#)

[IS FQ FOR YOU?](#)

[ORIENTATION EVENTS](#)

[FAQs](#)

[SPANISH FQ](#)

[ORDER FQ](#)

FQ HELPS

[LEADER'S GUIDE](#)

[LEADER RESOURCES](#)

[LEADER E-LETTER](#)

[NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE](#)

FQ HOME

ARTICLE

Orientation Session

ORIENTATION SESSION

Schedule a one-hour orientation session about a week before beginning the Bible study. The purpose of this session is to bring participants together for four important tasks:

- [To outline the FaithQuest process](#)
- [To develop a group agreement about the way the FaithQuest group will work together](#)
- [To establish a climate of worshipful attentiveness to God's leading while learning](#)
- [To receive study materials and assignments for Week 1](#)

To help you with this session, you can see an opening [worship suggestion](#), a general [outline of Sessions 1-17](#) of *FaithQuest*, and a [planning template](#) of life-long learning.

The *FaithQuest* process in brief

- It is essential to help the group understand that *FaithQuest* is a journey. The Bible study is just the beginning. During the 17-week study and after the Bible study is completed, the *FaithQuest* participants will apply new ways of thinking to the congregation and will implement new insights.
- The Bible study is multipurpose. It explores the Scriptures and the teachings of John Wesley in a deep and meaningful way. Participants in this study will gain a better understanding of the Word of God. A number of new concepts for viewing Scripture will act as lenses to provide new perspectives on the Bible. In addition to exploring Scripture, the *FaithQuest* study introduces concepts for new ways of thinking about the church as an organization. Participants are challenged to envision a new kind of church that is centered in Christ and informed by the Bible.
- Designed for local church leaders, *FaithQuest* is led by a team of local laity and clergy. It is designed to be user-friendly, taking into account the time demands most people face each day. The study requires 15-30 minutes a day for prayer, Scripture reading, reflection, and note taking. The study will meet weekly. While the benefits to individuals are many, the greatest benefit is to the *FaithQuest* group as a whole. A new vision for leading the congregation emerges, and it works to build team identity.
- [Click here](#) to see a general session outline. If it is a benefit for participants, you may copy and distribute the outline.

Develop a group agreement

Adequate preparation is just one of the ground rules for the *FaithQuest* Bible study. Each group needs to set its own ground rules, but some suggested rules follow:

- Participants will commit to attend all sessions of the study.

- Participants will read and prepare before the weekly meeting.
- Participants will hold one another accountable to begin and end on time.
- Participants will respect the opinions and ideas of others in the group.
- Participants will pay attention and actively listen to others in the group.
- Participants will strive to find concrete applications for the Bible study concepts within their congregation.
- Participants will pray for one another throughout the weeks of the study.

Establish a climate of worshipful attentiveness to God's leading while learning.

- Open the orientation session by lighting a candle and welcome the presence of God. Pray for God's leading during the preparation and group sessions.
- The opening worship of *FaithQuest* leader training events has been used by some orientation leaders. They feel it sets a worshipful climate and introduces the *FaithQuest* process. For your planning, this worship lasts about 20 minutes.

Receive study materials

Each participant will need a copy of the *FaithQuest* Bible Study. Assign Session 1 on pages 9-18.



faithquest@gbod.org

BUILDING LEADERS FOR TODAY'S CHURCH

[FQ Home](#) | [Assessment Quiz](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Search](#)
[Who We Are](#) | [Is FaithQuest for You?](#) | [Orientation Events](#) | [FAQs](#) | [Spanish FQ](#) | [Order FaithQuest](#)
[Leader's Guide](#) | [Leader Resources](#) | [Resource Center](#) | [Newsletter Archive](#)



FQ ABOUT FAITH QUEST

A JOURNEY TOWARD CONGREGATIONAL TRANSFORMATION.

[CONTACT US](#)

[SITE MAP](#)

[SEARCH](#)

ABOUT FQ

[WHO WE ARE](#)

[IS FQ FOR YOU?](#)

[ORIENTATION EVENTS](#)

[FAQs](#)

[SPANISH FQ](#)

[ORDER FQ](#)

FQ HELPS

[LEADER'S GUIDE](#)

[LEADER RESOURCES](#)

[LEADER E-LETTER](#)

[NEWSLETTER ARCHIVE](#)

FQ HOME

ARTICLE

FaithQuest Orientation Opening Worship Suggestion

Place a large candle (Christ candle) and seven smaller (votive) candles in the center of the participants.

The worship leader lights the Christ candle, telling people that the light reminds us that God is always with us. Jesus promises that where two or three are gathered, he will be there.

The leader states purpose of *FaithQuest*: It is a tool for leading the church that begins with a Bible study. The people who participate in *FaithQuest* are leaders or people who have been invited to think about leadership. What is a leader? Futurist Joel Barker says, "A leader is someone we choose to follow to a place we would not go alone." As leaders in the church, the one we follow is God. God will lead us into the future. God has called people to follow since the beginning of time.

Very early, God called Abraham (read Genesis 12: 1-4). Light and hold up one votive candle and remind participants of the many Old Testament people (men and women) who heard God's call, and followed, even though they didn't know where they would end up.

Light another votive, remembering New Testament people. In Matthew 4:19 Jesus said, "Follow me," and men left their jobs and followed. Youth are mentioned in the New Testament (Timothy and Titus) too.

Light another votive, recalling the cloud of witnesses in times following the written sacred text — desert mothers and fathers, monks in lonely cells transcribing the texts, and others.

Light another votive, recalling people in the early part of the last millennium: Francis of Assisi, Clare, Hildegard, Theresa, others you know.

Light another votive, remembering the reformers who heard God's call and followed. They heard a whisper to reform the church: Martin Luther, the Wesleys, and people who brought the gospel to America.

Light another votive, remembering people who followed the voice of God in the last century: Martin Luther King, Jr., Mother Theresa, Cassie Bernall.

Light the final votive for the people present. Tell participants: "Now God is calling this generation — us. Will we follow God into the future? There are many voices that call us to follow into the future. Will we hear God's call?"

Invite people to reflect quietly on times they have already followed God. Where has it led them? When have participants followed God to places they never would have chosen on their own? (Allow a couple minutes of silence for reflection.)

Ask people to write a prayer that they would offer to God as the *FaithQuest* journey begins.

BUILDING LEADERS FOR TODAY'S CHURCH



faithquest@gbod.org

[FQ Home](#) | [Assessment Quiz](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Search](#)
[Who We Are](#) | [Is FaithQuest for You?](#) | [Orientation Events](#) | [FAQs](#) | [Spanish FQ](#) | [Order FaithQuest](#)
[Leader's Guide](#) | [Leader Resources](#) | [Resource Center](#) | [Newsletter Archive](#)



General Outline

The minimum time that is suggested for each group lesson is two hours. The timing suggested in parentheses below is for a two-hour session. However, some *FaithQuest* groups meet for 2 1/2 hours to include prayer, worship, and refreshments. Some groups schedule extra sessions to explore key concepts in depth or to do research and discovery exercises. Whatever pace you choose, your leadership role is to keep the Bible study group moving toward the goal of leading the faith community into the future.

Review the teaching outline for each lesson ahead of time in order to use the time of the group meeting session effectively.

- **Gathering and review preparation** (20 minutes)
When people gather for Bible study, they bring with them a dozen distractions. The simple sharing of joys, concerns, pressures, problems, and plans can help everyone to focus on the Bible study. There is an opening suggested for each session. Participants may raise questions and make observations about their readings and reflections during the week.
- **Exploration at Group Session** (50 minutes)
Each session has plans for the group to focus reflection on Scripture. Following the Bible study, an exercise makes a transition that brings Bible insights to our time.
- **Discovery — Applying Ideas to the Congregation** (45 minutes)
This portion of each session is designed to move the group from the abstract to the concrete. “Discovery” helps group members focus on what the new concepts will mean to them in their congregations. Discovery information, questions, and exercises are part of the Bible study book. Leader notes for each session expand applications for congregations and offer teaching ideas.
- **Feedback and Evaluation** (5 minutes)
This segment in each session allows participants to summarize their learning and articulate questions. This feedback is essential for leaders as they plan the next session.
- **Sending Forth** (10 minutes)
FaithQuest is surrounded with worship and prayer. The Leader Guide for each session sends participants forth with familiar and new spiritual practices.



PREPARATION FOR LEADING A GROUP SESSION

Session # _____

Before the lesson, ask yourself :

Date _____

Who will share the leadership of this session with me?

How have I planned for a variety of learning styles?

Sample 2-hour session beginning at 7:00 PM	Time schedule for your FaithQuest session	Session Plan	Segment leader	Supplies and resources
7:00 PM		Gathering and review preparation		Worship center
7:20 PM		Exploration: Bible study Transition to our time		Bibles
8:10 PM		Break		
8:20 PM		Discovery Questions Discussion		
9:10 PM		Feedback and Evaluation		
9:20 PM		Sending Forth		
9:30 PM		End of session		