

# ***Church: Nurturing Communities of Faith***

## **Course Syllabus (Feb, 2015)**

### **Course Description**

Gathering disciples in community is one of the essential core skills of church planting. This training module is designed to assist you in developing necessary attitudes, skills and knowledge to be effective in establishing healthy, relevant, reproducing churches. We will have the benefit of newer and veteran workers learning together, bringing fresh ideas and the wisdom of years of experience.

### **Your Course Guides**

For technical or administrative help, send an email to [WT-Training@WorldTeam.org](mailto:WT-Training@WorldTeam.org).

You may contact your course facilitator via email or by use of the “messages” feature in *Leaderspace*. Expect a reply within 24 hours during working days under normal circumstances.

### **Technical Requirements**

- Participants will need a computer (Mac or Windows) able to connect to the Internet
- An up-to-date version of either **Firefox** or **Google Chrome** is recommended. Other browsers like Microsoft Internet Explorer should also work. (Download Firefox at <http://www.mozilla.org/en-US/firefox/fx/#desktop>)
- **Adobe PDF Reader**. Note: Please do not use any Reader other than Adobe PDF. You may download the latest version of Adobe PDF Reader at [get.adobe.com/reader/](http://get.adobe.com/reader/).

### **Course Structure**

*Church: Nurturing Communities of Faith* includes four weekly lessons each of which are divided into subsections (labelled as ‘days’). A subsection may include an article for reading, a short video, or an activity and will conclude with a question for group discussion in an online forum or with your ministry partners. Each subsection will normally take 15-45 minutes to complete.

If you are taking the course online, plan to participate in the course every day (not including weekends). Expect to spend about 4-6 hours weekly engaged in the course. If you miss a day, try to not let two days go by without checking in. It is important that you post your responses and reply to the posts of other participants in a timely manner.

This course is designed to be taken online or as a team with your ministry partners. All the material is downloadable and useable offline (with links to videos). We strongly recommend taking this module as a team. While all learning can benefit from such interaction, group processing with your team would be especially valuable at this phase. No matter how the course is structured in your case, we hope you are able to informally but deliberately include your teammates and ministry partners in what you are learning.

### **Participation Guidelines**

Learning a “skill” such as *gathering community* is not done in isolation. Whether you are taking the course online or face-to-face, our desire is that you connect with others in addition to grasping the course content. Bring your community into this course about community! This can be done through dialogue about your and other’s experiences. Do not hesitate to articulate your unique ideas, or ask challenging questions of others in a godly manner. Of course, your words of encouragement to fellow learners are always welcome.

## Course Access & Orientation

You are already enrolled in the online module and will be able to access it at <http://www.grow2serve.com/>. This is where you will receive instructions, download materials, and participate in online discussions.

## Course Calendar

WEEK	Lesson	Themes	Due Date
zero	Settling In (begins <b>Feb 23</b> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Course orientation &amp; Content overview</li><li>• Personal introductions</li></ul>	Feb 28
1	The Biblical Foundation for Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Biblical images for the Church</li><li>• God's Purpose for the Church in His Redemptive Plan</li><li>• Group versus Church</li><li>• Pitfalls and Health</li><li>• Spiritual Battles</li></ul>	Mar 1-7
2	Life in the Body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Body Life Issues</li><li>• The One Another Commands</li><li>• Spiritual Gifts</li><li>• It's About Making Disciples</li><li>• Servant Leadership</li></ul>	Mar 8-14
3	Forming Communities of Disciples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Church Planting in the Book of Acts</li><li>• Understanding Social Structure</li><li>• Four Basic Social Structures</li><li>• Simple Models</li><li>• It Happens!</li></ul>	Mar 15-21
4	Leading and Multiplying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Openness</li><li>• Leadership Models for CP&amp;M</li><li>• Letting Go Gracefully</li><li>• Training Church Leaders</li><li>• Readiness to Multiply</li></ul>	Mar 22-28
	Review and Release	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review the lessons learned in Nurturing Community</li><li>• Plan for ongoing application</li></ul>	Mar 29- April 1