



# INTEGRATED

F A I T H P R O J E C T

**Participant Guide**

# Welcome to the Integrated Faith Project

## About the IF Project

The **IF Project** is OCF's foundational teaching on integrating faith in Christ in personal transformation, family, profession, and community relationships to encourage and equip members to serve "on-mission" for Him. The **IF Project** is meant for all OCF members, as well as any believer that wishes to live the military life God purposed for us, that is in a coherent and integrated manner.

## The OCF Vision

The military community positively impacted through Christ-like leaders

## The OCF Mission

OCF engages military leaders in Biblical fellowship and growth to equip them for Christ-like service at the intersection of faith, family, and profession.

## How it Works

Each session—Foundation, Faith in Personal Transformation, Faith in Profession, Faith in Family, and Faith in Community and Relationships is approximately 90 minutes in duration with ten to twenty minutes of presentation and the balance of the time for group discussion. Please take notes during the presentation to help prepare you for the discussion that follows—and to seek clarification if necessary from the facilitator. If in a group setting, the facilitator will guide the discussion using questions provided in the Participant's Guide. If in a private setting, we strongly suggest negotiating the discussion questions personally. Each session ends with one or two application challenges. Scripture tells us, "But be doers of the word and not hearers only, lest you deceive yourself" (James 1:22). The purpose of these sessions is for us to be fruitful in what we know and learn.





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presentation for this session at  
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## Foundation Session

The Foundation Session of the IF Project describes a fully integrated life through the example of Jesus. Jesus's every step on earth was informed and governed by the Father's will. Jesus further called His disciples to carry on His mission upon His departure and gave us His presence and power to fulfill that high calling. Summary notes of the presentation are provided on the following pages. As you engage the video presentation, you may want to add to the notes provided.

# Participant Guide | Foundation Session

## Notes from the Presentation

### Introduction

- “Balancing” work, family, and spiritual growth can be challenging
- Christ-followers find it challenging to allow Christ to govern all parts of life
- We are pulled in many directions
- Questions we ask ourselves:
  - Who am I becoming? What is God’s plan for me?
  - Where is my faith operative in my life? Where is it producing fruit?
- We need a model to follow—and we have one. It is Jesus.

### Jesus is our model

- He was:
  - Fully God and fully man
  - Physical yet spiritual
  - Emotional yet rational
  - Caring yet firm
  - Graceful yet disciplined
  - Strong yet gentle
  - Powerful yet humble

- Jesus integrated His life because He had a single point of focus (John 4:34)
- Jesus modeled His single focus in both the cosmic—and the smaller things of life.

### Extra Notes of your own:

# Participant Guide | Foundation Session

## Notes from the Presentation

### Four components of faith-filled, integrating living are:

- Component 1. Decide on your single point of focus. Jesus decided and reported on His accomplishment before His death. (John 17:4). And then gave us the call to continue His mission (John 17:18).
- Component 2. Accept the gospel mission as your primary mission. In giving us the gospel mission, He gives us His purpose, presence, and power. (Acts 1:8, Mat. 28:18-20.
- Component 3. Abide in Christ through an ever-growing faith in Him.
- Component 4. Hold on during hardship

### Conclusion

- OCF vision. "The military community positively impacted through Christ-like leaders"
- Paul: I appeal to you brethren by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice . . ." (Rom. 12:1-2)

### Extra Notes of your own:



# Participant Guide | Foundation Session

## Discussion Questions

1. What is the most thought-provoking concept you heard in this session?

... addressing the voids in my own life of faith such as Christ-like character, abiding knowledge of Christ, and sin?  
... a backyard encounter with a neighbor?  
... executing a mind-numbing task in the home?  
... training children?  
... struggling through a near impossible task or mission and at work?  
... dealing with a difficult supervisor or subordinate?

2. From birth, Jesus marched straight to the cross. For 33 years every step of His walk was integrated through the Father's will. "I can do nothing on my own. As I hear I judge, and my judgement is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him who sent me." (Jn. 5:30) What would be the effect in my own life **IF** I walked intentionally in faith in:

# Participant Guide | Foundation Session

## Discussion Questions

3. Jesus previewed His gospel mission in Luke 4:18-19. He followed it three years later in His high priestly prayer saying first “Mission accomplished!” (John 17:4) and then stating our mission (John 17:18). Read all three passages and then personalize and describe in your own words your gospel mission.

4. Which of the four components of faith-filled living mentioned in the presentation demand my personal attention?

5. Application. What actions will I take today to attend to that need? (1 or more)

- ☐ Resolve now and take that critical step of: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Pray now that God will give me the desire to take that step
- ☐ Meet with another participant and share my action for accountability and prayer
- ☐ Continue with the IF Project and decide later
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_



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FAITH & TRANSFORMATION

**View or download the  
presentation for this session at  
[ocfusa.org/ifproject/personal](http://ocfusa.org/ifproject/personal)**

## Integration of Faith in Personal Transformation

The Personal Transformation Session of the IF Project establishes the basis for integrated living in other domains of military life. Without continuing growth in Christ-likeness, Christ-like service in family, profession, and community relationships is impossible. Jesus is our model and His high standard for a true disciple is our goal.

The main point of this session is while believers are redeemed, we desperately need to be on a journey of growing up in Christ-likeness to serve Christ fruitfully. The key scripture passage is Ephesians 4:13, "...until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ."

Summary notes of the presentation are provided on the following pages. You may want to add to the presentation notes provided.



# Participant Guide | Personal Transformation Session

## Notes from the Presentation

Our dilemma: Believers are redeemed, but we need to grow up into Christ likeness.

OCF's Mission is "OCF engages military leaders in Biblical fellowship and growth to equip them for Christ-like service at the intersection of faith, family, and profession." A continual growth in Christ-likeness through personal transformation is key to Christ-like service.

Our journey of transformation.

1. Say "yes" to the call of discipleship. Growing as a disciple includes:

Progressively learning who the Rabbi (Teacher) is, progressively knowing what the Rabbi (Teacher) knows, and progressively doing what the Rabbi (Teacher) does.

2. Saying "yes" to following Him is the beginning. Pursuing the high goal is where growth occurs. Jesus cited six marks of a true disciple (See the second discussion question for the list of six marks.) While no disciple rises to those standards initially, they do describe the ultimate level of faith and growth of Jesus' call.

## Extra Notes of your own:



# Participant Guide | Personal Transformation Session

## Notes from the Presentation

3. The journey of discipleship requires perseverance.

4. How do I grow? What do I do? (Romans 12:1-2)

5. Some Indicators of Transformation

- Knowledge of God's wisdom and truth found in His word – and the growing application of it in life. (Heb. 5:14).
- Authentic fellowship. (Heb. 10:24-25)
- An abiding relationship with Christ through prayer, worship, and other means that produces the fruit of the Spirit within and fruitful gospel living. (John 15:1-11)
- Service (John 13:15)

6. Transformation is a lifetime journey with our supernaturally large, "... to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." (Ephesians 4:13)

**Extra Notes of your own:**

# Participant Guide | Personal Transformation Session

## Discussion Questions

1. What is the most thought-provoking concept you heard in this session?

Jesus personally spoke of six marks of a disciple.

- Denial of self. "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." (Mat. 16:24 and Lu. 9:23)
- Radical stewardship. "So therefore, any one of you who does not renounce all that he has cannot be my disciple." (Lu. 14:33)
- Abiding in God's word. "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples." (Jn. 8:21)
- Bearing fruit. "By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples." (Jn. 15:8)

- Love for the brethren. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (Jn. 13:35)
- Life's transcendent priority. "If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brothers and sisters, and yes, his own life, he cannot be my disciple." (Lu. 14:26)

Jesus' disciples' early lives clearly didn't reflect the high standard of the six marks, but they grew in them over time.

2. What methods did God use to transform them?

# Participant Guide | Personal Transformation Session

## Discussion Questions

3. What methods has God used in your life to mature you?

Referring to OCF's mission to "... equip leaders for Christ-like service at the intersection of faith, family, and profession.," the narrator stated, "Christ-like service springs from the Christ-likeness of the one serving."

4. What do we know about how the early disciples cooperated with God in pursuing their call to discipleship? What attitudes, commitments, practices?

6. Discuss where you have seen godly leadership on display. What character traits were evident in the effective leader's life?

5. In what areas and in what ways can I move forward?

7. Where have you seen the Christian leader's lack of character diminish his or her witness and effectiveness?

# Participant Guide | Personal Transformation Session

## Discussion Questions

8. Read the apostle John's affirmation of Gaius in 3 John 1-8. What is the evidence of Gaius' level of growth? What is the fruit of that growth?

### Application

Mark the one or two areas of personal transformation listed below that I must and will immediately commit to with God's grace.

- ☐ Growing and deepening knowledge of and affections for God
- ☐ Knowledge of God's wisdom and truth found in His word
- ☐ Authentic fellowship with believers
- ☐ Abiding relationship with Christ through prayer, worship, and other means
- ☐ Service that expresses the heart and compassion of Christ

What specific daily (or weekly) and measurable step will I begin immediately in that (those) area(s)? Who will I submit to for accountability in following through?



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FAITH & FAMILY

**View or download the  
presentation for this session at  
[ocfusa.org/ifproject/family](http://ocfusa.org/ifproject/family)**

## Integration of Faith in Family

In this session we focus on two areas in which the integration of faith in family is applied as we are “on-mission” with God. Those areas are discipleship within the home (both in children and in adults) and to impact in surrounding community (in Christian witness and in service to others). The main point of this session is that family life is to be lived on Gospel mission both within the nuclear family and among those the family touches.

Summary notes of the presentation are provided on the following pages. As you engage the video presentation, you may want to add to the notes provided.

# Participant Guide | Family Session

## Notes from the Presentation

1. The original institution of family. God's institution and purpose was for man and woman to:

- unite as one
- have dominion over God's created beings
- be nourished by His creation
- be fruitful in their union

### Extra Notes of your own:

2. Then came the corruption of sin. But, God's purpose remains the same, and:

- Families today all bear the effects of the fall including strive, sin, shame, and death
- God has always used flawed families for His purposes

# Participant Guide | Family Session

## Notes from the Presentation

### 3. The Missional Family

*Discipleship within the family. Children and Adults.*

- Take the long view in raising children. You're not only raising children, you are ultimately raising parents, grandparents, and citizens. (Prov. 22:6, Eph. 6:4))
- Take advantage of resources and aids including: scripture, teachers and authors, on-line resources, OCF means, and children and youth ministries.
- Parents, however, bear the ultimate responsibility for discipling children, not the church, school, or youth group.
- Not only do children grow as disciples in the family but parents grow also.

*The family impact in the community*

- Marriage as a witness of Christ and the church. (Eph. 5:22)
- Family impact in outreach and service.
- Growth often occurs within the family through external family service.

***"Our Marriage is a prism through which the world sees the Gospel and the example of how Christ loved the Church. It has to be our best act." (LTG, Ret. Bob Van Antwerp)***

### 4. Thoughts and questions that arose from the presentation.



# Participant Guide | Family Session

## Discussion Questions

1. What is the most thought-provoking concept you heard in this session?

2. When you think of a family you have known who seems to live out their faith both inside and outside the home, what are some of their characteristics?

3. God's pre-fall institution of the family was for huge and wonderful purposes and although mankind suffers scars and corruption from the fall, God still used in history—and continues to use—marred families for kingdom purposes. How would you like to see Him using your family?

- What would be elements of your family mission statement to guide you in responding?
- What specific actions, by God's grace, could you do to be "on-mission" for Christ?

# Participant Guide | Family Session

## Discussion Questions

4. In raising children, we are keenly aware of the important needs of education, relationships with peers, athletics, and other mental, social, and physical needs. Yet, as parents, we bear the ultimate human responsibility to “train up a child in the way he or she should go” (Pr. 22:6) In the group read together Deut. 11:18-25, Eph. 6:1-4, and 1 Th. 2:11. Then discuss what major themes of discipling children are found in these passages?

5. In the presentation, you heard the quote “What if God designed marriage to make us holy more than to make us happy?” That quote may be shocking to some, but it highlights the concept that while God desires harmony and joy in marriage, those things spring from each partner’s

growth in godliness through experiences found in family life. How have you found truth in that concept? What is your personal responsibility in making it more of a reality in your own life?

6. The presentation stated that a family on mission for Christ has a call to be God’s vessel for impacting beyond the walls of the home. What are ways we can be that vessel?

# Participant Guide | Family Session

## Discussion Questions

### Application

1. Before laying your head on the pillow this evening, take 15 minutes in prayer and discussion to develop and write a draft mission statement for your family. And then refine it after returning home and discuss it with the full family at a mealtime.

2. At the family discussion time, select and implement one or two practices you will implement to further the accomplishment of your mission



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FAITH & PROFESSION

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## Integration of Faith in Profession

The Integration of Faith in Profession Session addresses the truth that in all we do, including our work and profession, we are serving the Lord Christ. (Colossians 3:23-24). The session outlines four avenues of walking in faith within the profession.

The main point to be drawn from this session is that our faith can be integrated fully—and fruitfully—in our professional work and workplace. The key passage is Colossians 3:23-24, “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”

Summary notes of the presentation are provided on the following pages. As you engage the video presentation, you may want to add to the notes provided.

# Participant Guide | Profession Session

## Notes from the Presentation

1. God has powerfully used non-clergy, to include military men and women, for His divine purposes. Examples are:

- Deborah (Judges 4&5)
- Uriah (2 Sam. 11:6-21)
- Benaiah, Josheb, Eleazar, Shammah (2 Sam. 23:8-38)
- David
- Joshua Chamberlain

2. In His prayer to the Father before His crucifixion, Jesus expressed the Gospel mission for His followers. It was a continuation of the mission given to Jesus. (John: 17:18)

3. In God's sovereignty, we are not in our profession or location by chance.

# Participant Guide | Profession Session

## Notes from the Presentation

4. Avenues if walking in faith within the profession:

- Find the sacred within the discipline you are engaged.
- Serve God through the manner and excellence of your service
- Influence the environment in which you serve
- Honor God by serving in obedience, even when it is hard

5. Thoughts and questions that arose from the presentation.

# Participant Guide | Profession Session

## Discussion Questions

1. What is the most thought-provoking concept you heard in this session?

2. Have you thought about your faith being integrated into your chosen profession before? What are some of the opportunities you may find to integrate faith? What are the challenges that seem to inhibit you?

3. Have you found yourself intentionally or inadvertently compartmentalizing your professional life? What do you see in the lives of the Biblical examples mentioned in the presentation?

4. Consider John 17:18 “As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.” Discuss the implications of God placing you in your profession as part of His plan? As you do, share your thoughts.

# Participant Guide | Profession Session

## Discussion Questions

5. Look at the four suggested avenues of integrating your faith into your profession. Discuss ways they can be effectively implemented in the military culture.

- Find the sacred within the secular discipline you are engaged. Discuss the gospel aspects of your specialty within the profession.
- Through the manner and excellence in which you serve.
- Season the environment in which you serve.
- Through serving God in obedience, even when it is costly and hard.

## Application

1. Highlight the one avenue of the four listed above that you most need to address personally.

2. Identify an action you will take on your first day returning to duty and share it with someone in your group for prayer and accountability.





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FAITH & COMMUNITY

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## Integration of Faith in Community & Relationships

The Integration of Faith in Community Relationships Session focuses on faith-driven relationships with others in the body of Christ—and in community interactions beyond the body of believers.

The main point to be captured through this session is Our faith is lived out in relationships both among believers and within the larger community. The key passage is 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8, “But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.”

Summary notes of the presentation are provided on the following pages. As you engage the video presentation, you may want to add to the notes provided.

# Participant Guide | Community Relationships Session

## Notes from the Presentation

1. Jesus majored in relationships. He lived it and demonstrated it.

- As part of the Trinity where the Father, Son, and Spirit have been eternally One in perfect harmony and relationship.
- At the age of 12 when presented at the Temple learned at the feet of teachers
- His first miracle at Cana where He met the host's logistics and hospitality challenges
- By investing deeply in others including His apostles and disciples
- At the Great Commission (Mat. 28:18-20) by saying He would be with us even to the end of the age
- In establishing the church which is a communal gathering of Christ-followers and agents

# Participant Guide | Community Relationships Session

## Notes from the Presentation

2. Living your faith in two community domains.

### *Within a body of believers*

- Considerations in deciding where and how
- Doing life together in intimate and serving relationships (1 Thes. 2:7-8)

### *Within the local community*

- Service and witness
- As citizens of the local, state, and federal government

3. Thoughts and questions that arose from the presentation

# Participant Guide | Community Relationships Session

## Discussion Questions

1. What is the most thought-provoking concept you heard in this session?

2. Consider Jesus' relational example from His role in the eternal Godhead to His formation of the Church as described in the presentation and summarized in presentation note #1 above. What does this imply about the value God places on relationships?

3. Believers are instructed to be a part of a body where we can worship God, grow spiritually, and encourage and serve one another. We learn and grow through a group, enjoy fellowship, prayer, meals, and share a common vision. In Hebrews 10:25 we are instructed to participate in corporate fellowship. What has been your experience in gathering in Biblical fellowship with others?

# Participant Guide | Community Relationships Session

## Discussion Questions

4. Jesus appointed twelve, “. . . so that they might be with him . . .” (Mark 3:14) In 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8 we are shown by Paul what it means to love one another so much that while we share our faith, we also share our very lives. Consider and describe where you have experienced or observed such relationships? How can those type relationships be fostered more widely?

5. At Jesus’ first miracle we see Him in a purely social setting and yet He is an active participant and acts to assist in the festivities. As we seek to be Christ’s influence in our communities, both within and beyond the Christian faith community, what are some practical ways that we can share Christ’s love with others?

# Participant Guide | Community Relationships Session

## Discussion Questions

### Application

What actions will I take today to actively integrate my faith into my relationships with individuals and the community around me? (1 or more)

\_\_\_ Resolve now be an active member of a corporate body in worship and seek opportunities to serve. Identify a specific and immediate step toward action you will take.

\_\_\_ Enter into or \_\_\_ initiate a biblical fellowship with other military Christians

\_\_\_ Pray now that God will reveal to me the opportunities for fellowship and relationship in my home, church, neighborhood and community.

\_\_\_ Actively live my faith in word and deed in all public settings so that by my actions through, Christ is honored. Identify a specific and immediate action you will take.

\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_