



How to Start a Local BNF Group

How do you know you're being called to start a local BNF?

- Is it your heart's desire to use your medical knowledge in ministry and serving others?
- Do you desire fellowship with other like-minded medical professionals?
- Do you wish education opportunities to grow your spirit and lift your faith?

How do I begin?

Seek the Kingdom first: But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and all these things will be given to you. Matthew 6:33

1. Realize every group has to have a leader. The Lord will not bring you TO it without bringing you THROUGH it.
2. Your leader should be a medical professional that has acquired both God-given and practical skills that reflect confidence and character.
3. Your leader should be decisive, yet flexible; open minded, yet firm in their own convictions.
4. Your leader should be instrumental in establishing guidelines and dynamics of the group.
5. Your leader should establish a support team. You may call them officers, co-leaders, support team, etc.



What is the purpose of the leader and the leadership team?

1. The leader and support team are both learners and teachers. Their goal is to increase the knowledge base of the members and facilitate development of ministry skills in the community, family, and church.
2. The leader and support team should seek ministry opportunities that support their mission statement.
3. The leader and support team actively practice the biblical mandate to love others by sharing, encouraging, and supporting other BNF members.
4. The leader and support team model servant leadership as they serve with their spiritual gifts, and professional knowledge. The most important aspect of their service is their motive of love for the Savior.
5. The leadership team should take on the character of the Lord and His likeness when establishing guidelines and choosing ministry opportunities.

Build a Solid Foundation for your BNF Group

1. **Communication:** The most important part of a group's success. This involves not only talking, but, just as importantly, listening.
2. **Brainstorming:** If a ministry only needed one person's input and purpose, Jesus would not have chosen 12 disciples. Brainstorming generates tools and opportunities for growing, guiding, and giving direction.
3. **Prayer:** Philippians 4:6 says "In EVERYTHING, with prayer and supplication let your requests be made known and the peace of God which surpasses all understanding will guard your heart and mind in Christ Jesus." Don't make a decision without asking God about it first.
4. **Goal setting:** Prepare for greatness by setting goals. Goals determine what you will do. Goals should be measurable and attainable. List your goals; then calendar a date to evaluate your achievement. "Get your mind ready for action, being self disciplined, and set your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ." I Peter 1:13



Plan a BNF Organization Meeting

1. Set a date and time.
2. Reserve a location that is common ground for your intended audience. Some suggestions are church, library community room, hospital meeting room, community center or local Baptist association office.
3. Invite the state WMU/BNF representative to the organizational meeting to help oversee and guide in establishing a leadership team/officers.
4. Advertise your organizational meeting through your association by means of newsletters, pastors meetings, WMU meetings, etc. You should also advertise in hospitals, doctors' offices, outpatient facilities, home health offices, and anywhere else there are medical professionals.
5. Agree on a name/title for your BNF group.

Conducting Your First BNF Meeting

1. You may want to invite someone to be a guest speaker (such as a missionary, fellow medical professional, a musician to sing, or someone to share their personal testimony).
2. Door prizes are good incentives to get more attendees and make guests feel special.
3. You have complete freedom in deciding on a time for your next meeting. It should be within a time frame that keeps the interest and participation fresh. Most groups meet monthly or every other month.
4. You may choose to have refreshments if you like.
5. A theme for your meetings will increase the interest of participants. Some themes are the resurrection, missions, medicine, etc.
6. Offer continuing education courses at a discount, or for a love offering, to keep members active and involved.