

1.1 Welcome, Let's Get Started

PURPOSE: The purpose of this session is twofold: (1) to explain the benefits of the JfL, determine expectations of the JfL training course, and review what is expected of JfL Participants, and (2) to create an exciting, welcoming environment — one in which we experience community and begin to understand our value.

FOUNDATIONAL MESSAGE: *Understanding God's Plan Begins With Knowing God's Word, 2 Timothy 3:16–17*

When we want to learn about God's standard for living, we do not have to look any further than the Bible. In the book of 2 Timothy 3:16–17, Paul writes about the importance of knowing what God says in the Bible, *"All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful to teach us what is true and to make us realize what is wrong in our lives. It corrects us when we are wrong and teaches us to do what is right. God uses it to prepare and equip his people to do every good work."*

When we begin to learn what is true according to God, our lives will really begin to change and we will be prepared to learn what God's plans for us are all about.

TODAY'S DESTINATION

- Orientation
- Introductory Activities
- Values, Goals, and Purpose
- JfL Benefits and Expectations

BEGINNING A JOURNEY

You are on a journey through life. Employment is an important part of that journey. This Jobs for Life course will help you figure out what your destination is and how to get there.

"Life Journey" is a term that describes our progression through life.

Most people only realize they have been on a "life journey" when they look back at the past. But when we wait until the end of the journey to think about what is important, we miss opportunities.

1.2 Introductions: Why Am I Here?

Jobs for Life training is designed to help me discover God's purpose and plans for me, especially as they relate to employment.

Why am I here?

1.3 Jobs for Life Benefits And Expectations

The Jobs for Life Journey will guide me on a path to:



THROUGH JOBS FOR LIFE TRAINING I WILL:

- Discover how to match my interests and skills with a career path that can sustain me in the future.
- Develop a roadmap that will guide me to my selected job.
- Learn how to identify and overcome roadblocks in my path.
- Learn why character is the most important quality I need to be successful.
- Learn how to research, locate, and secure a job.
- Learn how to stay employed and advance to higher positions once I have a job.
- Develop friendships with other Participants, Champions and Facilitators, and meet a number of the employers and community resource providers who want to help me along my journey.
- Develop character traits and tools to stay on the right path for continuing progress until I reach my employment goals.

1.3 Jobs for Life Benefits And Expectations

WORKPLACE WAYS: THE JOB DESCRIPTION

- Every job has a job description.
- The job description, whether written or verbal, is a very important tool in the workplace because it clearly outlines the requirements and responsibilities expected from each position within a company.
- The stated job requirements and responsibilities become the point from which the actual job performance is evaluated and measured to determine the impact and success of the individual in that position.

Jobs for Life Participants have a specific Job Description for Jobs for Life training. As in all things in life, those who apply the most effort will reap the greatest benefits from the Jobs for Life journey.

1.3 Jobs for Life Benefits And Expectations

JOBS FOR LIFE PARTICIPANT JOB DESCRIPTION

JOB TITLE: *Jobs for Life Participant*

OBJECTIVE: *To develop skills and character that will lead to success in finding and keeping a job.*

RESPONSIBILITIES: *To complete the Jobs for Life training by:*

- Attending all sessions on time and being prepared
- Completing all in-session and additional assignments
- Being prepared to actively participate in group discussions and presentations
- Taking responsibility for your own learning experience
- Being open and asking for help as needed
- Serving as an encourager to fellow Participants
- Contacting the Champion or Participant Leader if unable to attend any session
- Actively seeking employment or training throughout the Jobs for Life course
- Applying newly learned principles, skills, and knowledge

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:

- A desire to obtain employment
- A commitment to complete the training course
- A willingness to enter into community with Jobs for Life volunteers

TIME NEEDED:

- Sessions are held every _____
- Sessions begin promptly at _____ and ends at _____
- Jobs for Life Graduation date: _____ at _____ (AM/PM)

GRADUATION QUALIFICATIONS:

- Complete all in-session assignments and Required Task Assignments
- Complete a Vocational Plan, 60-Second Commercial and a résumé
- Miss no more than three (3) sessions
- Make up any session missed prior to graduation by completing the session and demonstrating knowledge of the material
- Be diligent in learning and applying course material

1.3 Jobs for Life Benefits And Expectations

BENEFITS

Jobs for Life graduates have had a high success rate in finding and keeping a job that provides the opportunity for better pay, benefits, and growth.

THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER

To get the most out of this training, I will need to:

- Be honest with myself and my fellow Participants
- Dream of and envision where I want to go with my life
- Actively participate in Jobs for Life Training
- Ask for help as needed
- Stretch beyond my current boundaries
- Trust others and build sustaining relationships
- Identify and tap into available resources
- Make changes in areas of my life that hold me back from moving forward

1.4 Frequently Asked Questions

Eight weeks (15 sessions) is a long time. Why should I spend that much time in this training?

This is an investment of your time and it should be a good investment. You may have heard of other courses that didn't work or didn't provide as much as they promised. The Jobs for Life training has spread to locations across the United States because of its past successes with Participants.

Should I just try to find a better job by myself?

This investment will give you a support network that will last for months — and in most cases, years — after graduation. Whether or not you choose to complete the course, eight weeks will still go by. Those who decide not to participate will likely be in the same position as now, while Jobs for Life graduates will have a new direction toward an abundant life.

Are the benefits of this training worth the effort?

The Participants' initial job leads to other opportunities including independent housing, increased access to health care, newer cars, college or vocational education, and for some, perhaps even their own businesses. More importantly, if you apply the principles taught in Jobs for Life, it will change how you balance all aspects of life, from your physical, spiritual, and mental health to building and maintaining meaningful relationships with family, friends and community connections — benefits that reach far beyond the workplace. Most Jobs for Life Participants have families that also benefit from their involvement with Jobs for Life.

The goal of Jobs for Life is to provide you with the skills needed for finding and keeping meaningful work at a livable wage. As part of this process, you will develop a long-term plan that details an employment goal and the means to reach it.

There are several types of work:

- Casual work is the sort of position where you do personal service or odd jobs for others. Casual work often does not involve regular hours and does not provide benefits.
- A job is a position that pays a good wage and offers benefits, but does not usually require much change or growth or long-term commitment. Part-time jobs offer fewer hours, and usually few (or no) benefits.
- Contract work is when you agree to do a specific job for a fixed rate of pay for a fixed amount of time. Contract work usually lasts for a relatively short amount of time, such as 6 months. Contract work rarely includes benefits, but sometimes contract positions can lead to full-time jobs.
- Internships are work experience opportunities, usually for students, that can sometimes lead to full-time positions. Internships usually last for 1–4 months and can be paid or unpaid positions.
- Volunteer work is typically done for non-profit organizations. While it is unpaid work, it can allow you to learn or build on skills that can lead to paid work.
- A career is when you have a long-term strategy of advancement and growth in a particular line of work. You may hold one or more jobs as you pursue your long-term strategy. In a career, you think about what new and interesting things you can learn in order to increase the value you offer to employers.

The life principles and tools taught in Jobs for Life apply to all of these types of work. The course will also teach you how to plan and strategize your employment goals, leading you to develop a career mindset.

1.4 Frequently Asked Questions

What if I want to be self-employed?

As you discover your interests and aptitudes and develop your employment goal, you may find that your long-term goal is being self-employed. While the Jobs for Life training does not specifically address owning a business, it will teach you important life lessons and skills that will help along the journey to self-employment. Additionally, Jobs for Life will introduce you to community resources that help small business owners.

What questions do you have about the Jobs for Life course?

WE WANT YOU TO JOIN US ON THIS JOURNEY!

Now that you have seen and heard what Jobs for Life is about, what is expected of you, and what other Jobs for Life Participants have accomplished, we hope you will commit to attending the Jobs for Life course.

1.5 My Value and My Purpose

BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE: I am valuable to God and He has a plan for me

The Bible says that I am “fearfully and wonderfully made” (Psalm 139:14), created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26), and God loves me and has a purpose for me. That makes me precious to Him.

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord, “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

One of our goals through Jobs for Life training is to help you discover God’s plans for your life.

Have you ever considered that God has a special plan for your life?

1.5 My Value and My Purpose

How does it make you feel to know that God designed you with a purpose?

Jobs for Life will help me:

- Understand my unique value
- Discover God’s purpose and plan for my life
- Discover the gifts and talents that God has specifically given me to equip me for this purpose
- Apply my gifts and talents to a career or job that will fulfill God’s purpose and greatly enrich my life and my ability to provide for my family and myself

In this training course, you will be treated with the respect and dignity you deserve as God’s unique creation. All of us are God’s children. We all, Facilitator(s), Champions, and Participants can learn from each other. We will all show dignity and respect to each other.

1.6

From Others: A Message From Jobs For Life Graduates

Throughout JfL, we will learn from the lives of others — people who have been where you are now and persevered to graduate, and people who lived thousands of years before you. Learn from each message and from the trials and successes of others about how you too can experience the fullest benefits from Jobs for Life.

BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE: Struggle is part of life

"Here on earth you will have many trials and sorrows." John 16:33

I can't avoid trouble by being on my best behavior.

"No one is good-not even one." Romans 3:10

"For all have sinned; all fall short of God's glorious standard." Romans 3:23

Notes from Jobs for Life Graduate story:

1.6

From Others: A Message From Jobs For Life Graduates

Our life choices and commitments make a difference. Our choices determine whether we overcome our roadblocks or allow them to stop our forward progress; through our choices we can set a new direction for our lives and commit to do what it takes to reach our new destination.

THOUGHTS TO CONSIDER

- Even though God has planned our individual journeys, we are responsible for our choices. Each day we have to choose whether to follow God's plan for our life or our own plan.
- Our choices impact our journey (negatively and positively). Our attitudes and our actions are based on our choices.

1.7 Expectations

What do I expect to gain from Jobs for Life?

Are my expectations realistic?

What is my role in meeting my expectations?

1.8 Activity: Local Business Presentation

1.9 Our Journey: Session 1 Summary

This Session Covered:

- My journey: Jobs for Life training will help me on my journey to employment and my journey through life.
- My value: I am fearfully and wonderfully made. God thinks I am incredibly valuable and He gives me hope for the future.

What did I learn today?

What value could it bring to my life?

How can I apply it to my life today?

Principles That Work for Life

- I have a special purpose for which I am uniquely designed.
- Each of us has been given by God certain abilities. We are expected to use these gifts, and when we do, we become who we were made to be.
- Developing our God-given talents and interests make us valuable assets to employers.

Looking Ahead

The next step on our journey is to discover how Jobs for Life graduates have developed the tools and skills necessary to live life more abundantly. We will begin to learn how to get from where we are to where we want to be, and what we need to change in our lives to get there.

1.9 Our Journey: Session 1 Summary

Where We're Headed:

In the next session we will:

- Understand the need for positive relationships
- Understand the rationale for work
- Learn from real life examples
- Identify the concept of roadblocks

Jobs for Life Required Task Assignments

Each Jobs for Life session has Required Task Assignments designed to enrich the application of learned principles and skills. Each assignment is clearly noted by session in your workbook. These assignments must be reviewed and turned in at least once a week.

While these are mandatory, we encourage you to view these not as "homework," but as opportunities to take hold of your learning and get as much out of your commitment to this session as possible.