



Gathering Guide

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Who This Guide Is For

For church leaders, ministry volunteers, and community connectors ready to create a space where entrepreneurs belong.

You don't need a polished program. You don't need a big room. You need a table, a consistent time, and the willingness to start one conversation at a time. This guide walks you through every step — from signaling welcome at your church to hosting your first gathering and building from there.

A NOTE ON SUPPORT

Founders Table Network is here to help at every step. If you get stuck — on setup, social media, your first gathering, or anything in between — reach out to your FTN contact. You don't have to figure this out alone.

The Opportunity: They're Already in Your Building

Entrepreneurs are already in your pews on Sunday — carrying decisions no one around them fully understands. Questions about money, purpose, hiring, and risk. And a quiet suspicion that their Monday mornings don't belong to God.

1 in 5

Congregation members consider themselves entrepreneurial

75%

Of Gen Z ultimately want to become entrepreneurs

62%

Of Americans want to be their own boss

Source: Barna Entrepreneurs Report / ZenBusiness

THE KINGDOM OPPORTUNITY

"Entrepreneurs are a movemental force. What they need first is not a curriculum — it's a community. Build the table, and the movement will come."

PART 2

Get Your Church Aligned

Start with your pastor

This gathering should have your pastor's blessing, even if it lives off-campus at a coffee shop. Prepare a simple one-page case grounded in what your pastor already cares about.

The case to make

- Entrepreneurs in and around your church are carrying their work in isolation — this gathering gives the church a way in.
- A low-barrier weekly gathering is a front door for people who aren't yet ready for a Sunday service.
- This is not a para-church alternative — it is the church showing up where entrepreneurs actually live.
- The goal is always to anchor people more deeply to your local church, not to replace it.
- A more formal program like the Founders Table Foundations cohort becomes possible once community exists.

Find 2–3 People to Build With You

You need co-owners, not volunteers. Look for these three types from the start:

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| 01 | An entrepreneur with credibility in the business community who others respect and will follow. |
| 02 | A person with pastoral instincts who can shepherd real conversations and hold space well. |
| 03 | A person with time and organizational follow-through who keeps things consistent and on track. |

DON'T SKIP THIS

Distribute ownership from day one. A gathering built on one person's energy will stall within six months. Build something that could keep running even if you stepped away.

PART 3

Signal Welcome

Before you host anything, let people know they're invited. These three tools do it.

Tool 1 — Church Screen Slide

Put this in your Sunday slide rotation 2–3 weeks before your first gathering. Keep the language entrepreneurial, not churchy.

SAMPLE SLIDE COPY

Do you own a business, lead a team, or carry an entrepreneurial dream?

There's a seat at the table for you.

Find us after service today · [Your Name] · [Location/Table]

Tool 2 — The eFlyer

Share in church group chats, email newsletters, and your church Facebook page. Pin it everywhere.

SAMPLE EFLYER COPY

Your faith and your business belong together.

Facebook: Entrepreneur Meetup | [City], [State] · @founderstablenetwork

Tool 3 — Short Reel or Social Post (30–60 seconds)

Where to share it: Church Facebook group · Email newsletter · Personal Instagram story · WhatsApp/group chats
· Church digital bulletin · Pinned post in your FT group

SAMPLE REEL SCRIPT

"If you've ever felt like your faith and your work were speaking different languages — we built something for you."

Join us every [Day] · [Time] · [Location]

Facebook: Entrepreneur Meetup | [City], [State] · Follow: @founderstablenetwork

PART 4

Build Your Online Presence

Your Facebook Group is the online home for your table — where entrepreneurs find you before they show up in person.

Set Up Your Facebook Group

Naming convention: Entrepreneur Meetup | [City], [State] — *Example: Entrepreneur Meetup | Fredericksburg, VA*

PRIVACY	Set to Public — entrepreneurs need to find you before they trust you.
LINK PAGE	Connect to your church Facebook Page — post as the brand, not your personal profile.
DESCRIPTION	Who it's for + what they get: "Entrepreneurs who want their faith in the room with their work."
PINNED POST	Welcome message + meeting schedule + devotional link + link to the FTN page.
COVER PHOTO	Use Founders Table branded graphics — or a graphic that speaks to your community.

WE CAN HELP

Not sure how to set this up? Founders Table Network can help you create your group, set up your recurring event, and get everything in place — including making you the group moderator. Reach out to your FTN contact and we'll walk you through it together.

Follow & Share FTN Online

Plug into the network — then amplify it. Follow Founders Table Network on Facebook and @founderstablenetwork on Instagram, and turn on notifications. Have your church page admin follow too.

How to Share FTN Content

1. Go to the Founders Table Network Facebook page and find a post that resonates — a stat, a quote, or an encouragement for entrepreneurs.
2. Click **Share** → **Share to a Page** → **Select your church page**. Add a local caption: "We gather entrepreneurs at [Church]. Join us [Day/Time]."
3. Share to your personal profile too. Add your own voice: "This is why I do this work. Entrepreneurs belong in the Church." Tag your church and @founderstablenetwork.
4. Share directly to your Founders Table Facebook Group: "Does this resonate? Share your experience below."

The Weekly Content Rhythm

Consistency matters more than perfection. Show up in the group every week and entrepreneurs will show up at the table.

MON Reflection <i>"What's one word describing how you're entering this week?"</i>	WED Devotional Teaser <i>Preview this week's theme — share from FTN.</i>	THU Event Reminder <i>"We gather tomorrow at 8am — come as you are."</i>	FRI Wins Prompt <i>"What moved forward in your business this week?"</i>	SUN Faith + Work <i>Connecting Sunday's message to Monday's decisions.</i>
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PART 5

Find Your First 10

Your first ten people will define the culture of the group. Be intentional. You are not building an audience — you are starting a community.

Start Warm, Not Wide

- Begin with entrepreneurs already in your congregation — the ones who feel the faith/work divide most acutely.
- Ask your pastor who in the community they most want to reach.
- Each founding team member personally invites 3–5 people they have genuine relationship with.
- A personal text or coffee conversation converts 5–10× better than any announcement or flyer.

SAMPLE PERSONAL INVITATION

"I'm starting a small gathering for entrepreneurs where faith and work are both welcome. Early morning, casual, no agenda except good conversation. I thought of you specifically."

When You Meet an Entrepreneur in Person

ASK	<i>"What are you building right now?" — not "What do you do?"</i>
LISTEN	<i>Wait for the 'and' — entrepreneurs always have more than one thing going.</i>
NAME	<i>"It sounds like you see problems and go after them." They want to be understood.</i>
INVITE	<i>"There's a group of people doing exactly what you're doing. I'd love for you to come."</i>

DON'T WAIT FOR A FULL ROOM

Launch with six people who are genuinely engaged rather than waiting to gather twenty who are mildly interested. A table of six where everyone shows up and the conversation goes deep will grow faster than a room of twenty where most people feel anonymous.

ON NON-CHRISTIANS

Keep the language accessible from the start. Spiritually curious entrepreneurs are welcome at this table. The culture of the group — honest, warm, non-transactional — will do more evangelism than any explicit pitch ever could.

Choose Your Format & Run the Gathering

Structure that creates community — not a meeting people have to survive.

Frequency	Timing	Venue
Weekly builds fastest. Biweekly sustains longer. Monthly is a starting point only. Choose what your team can do consistently.	7:00–8:30am wins. Before the workday demands take over. Signals respect for their time. Evening rarely works.	Coffee shop first. Neutral, easy to invite someone to. Not inside the church at first. Migrate once you have 12+ who know each other.

Create a recurring Facebook Event — one event is an announcement, a recurring event is a community. Need help? Reach out to your FTN contact.

The Table Format — 60 to 90 Minutes

5 min	Open	Welcome, introductions, who's new — set the tone. No company-title name tags. First names only.
15 min	Devotional	Short reading from FTN-provided content + one reflection question tied to faith and work.
25 min	Conversation	What are you building? What's your challenge this week? Go around — 60 seconds each, then open it up.
10 min	Ideas	One person shares a decision, problem, or win. The group responds with honest input.
10 min	Prayer	Business prayers. Real requests. Specific asks. This is non-negotiable and the most important part.
5 min	Close	One challenge to carry into the week. Confirm next meeting. Note who to follow up with individually.

Facilitation Principles

- Ask more than you teach. The best facilitators speak less than 20% of the time.
- Protect the honest voices. When someone gets real about failure or fear, slow down. Don't rush to fix it.
- Name the faith dimension without forcing it. Ask “where do you see God in that?” rather than prescribing an answer.
- Start and end on time, every time. Entrepreneurs notice. It's how you earn trust before you've said anything profound.
- Follow up between meetings. A text to someone who mentioned a hard situation builds the deepest loyalty.

ON PRAYER

Nothing separates a Founders Table gathering from a secular peer group more decisively than genuine, specific prayer. If time gets tight, cut the discussion short — never the prayer. It's the thing no secular peer group offers. It's the whole point.

Content That Opens the Room & The Conversation Pipeline

Devotionals — Provided for You

Every gathering comes with a ready-to-use devotional from Founders Table Network. Faith and business, not separated. You don't have to write anything — just show up prepared to facilitate the conversation it opens. Reach out to your FTN contact for access.

Questions That Open the Room

A single good question is worth more than any prepared talk. Rotate through these:

Where did you feel most alive in your work this week — and where did you feel most alone?

What decision are you facing right now that you haven't been able to talk about with anyone?

What would it look like if your business was a direct expression of your faith?

Where have you seen God show up in your work in a way you didn't expect?

What does rest actually mean for someone wired like you?

The Conversation Pipeline

Everything in this guide connects to a single framework — the journey from never having heard of Founders Table to fully belonging.

1 DISCOVER They see a post, slide, reel, or flyer.	2 FEEL WELCOME Language speaks their world. They follow.	3 GET INVITED A personal message from someone who knows them.	4 SHOW UP First gathering. Low pressure. Real conversation.	5 COME BACK They return because they felt seen, not just served.	6 BELONG They bring ideas, prayer, devotionals. They invite others.
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Parts 3–4 handle steps 1–2. The personal invitation handles step 3. The gathering format handles steps 4–5. A consistent, healthy community handles step 6.

Topic Themes That Sustain a Year

Work as Worship What changes when you see Monday as sacred?	Loneliness at the Top The isolation of making decisions alone.
Profit and Purpose What is margin for, really?	Failure and Resilience What hard seasons teach that growth seasons can't.
Generosity and Risk Giving as a business practice, not just personal.	The Rest Problem Why Sabbath is the most countercultural entrepreneur practice.

What to Avoid

These are the most common ways table leaders undermine the thing they're trying to build. Read them once. Come back to them at month three.

Becoming a Networking Group

The moment lead-generation becomes the subtext, you've lost what makes this irreplaceable. Name the purpose explicitly and return to it often. Business connections are welcome as a byproduct — they cannot be the draw.

One-Leader Dependency

Build a group that could survive you stepping away. Develop facilitators from within the community starting in month two. Distribute ownership before you need to.

Too Much Structure Too Soon

Curriculum, speakers, and formal programs earn their place after trust is built — not before. Let relationship precede structure. Resist the urge to add more before you've deepened what you have.

Treating It as Church Outreach

Entrepreneurs sense when they are being recruited for something. Lead with genuine care for them as people. The church connection will follow naturally.

Skiping Prayer

If time gets tight, cut the discussion short — not the prayer. Prayer is the thing no secular peer group offers. It is the whole point. Never let it become an afterthought.

Ignoring Women Entrepreneurs

Mixed groups default to male-coded business culture without intention. Actively invite women founders and make sure their experience is centered in the conversation from the very beginning.

THE BOTTOM LINE

You don't need a perfect program. You need a consistent presence and the willingness to start one conversation at a time.

PART 11

Your 30-Day Launch Challenge

Don't try to do everything at once. Follow the sequence. Each week builds on the last.

Week 1	Build the Foundation
✓	Follow FTN on Facebook & Instagram — right now, before anything else.
✓	Create your FB Group: Entrepreneur Meetup [City], [State].
✓	Write & pin your welcome post with meeting info.
✓	Share your first FTN post to your church page.
Week 2	Signal Welcome
✓	Load the church screen slide into Sunday rotation.
✓	Share the eFlyer in newsletters and group chats.
✓	Record and post a short reel using the script.
✓	Personally invite 3–5 entrepreneurs you already know.
Weeks 3–4	Gather & Grow
✓	Create your recurring Facebook Event.
✓	Host your first gathering — 2–3 people is a table.
✓	Post 3–4 times/week using the content rhythm.
✓	Follow up with every attendee personally.

SUPPORT

Need help with any of these steps? Your FTN contact is ready to support you.

Building Momentum Over Time

Weeks 1–4	Plant the Table Show up consistently. Keep it simple — coffee, one question, prayer. Resist the urge to add structure before trust exists. Make people feel genuinely glad they came.
Months 2–3	Deepen the Culture Begin introducing more intentional topics. Start following up between meetings. Name the pattern: this is a community where faith and work belong together.
Months 3–5	Expand the Circle Ask your most engaged members to personally invite one peer. Peer-to-peer invitation is far more powerful than any promotion. Your group of 8 can become 15 without losing its soul.
Months 4–6	Identify the Ready Ones Some people will be clearly hungry for more depth and accountability. These are your Foundations cohort candidates. Begin having those individual conversations.
Month 6+	Launch a Foundations Cohort The gathering has done its job: built trust, identified who is ready, and created community hungry to go deeper. Invite 8–14 into the full Founders Table Foundations experience. The gathering continues alongside it, welcoming the next wave.



The table is wherever you are.

Every conversation is an invitation.

Every gathering is a statement that entrepreneurs belong here.

founderstablenetwork.org · [@founderstablenetwork](https://twitter.com/founderstablenetwork) · [#FoundersTable](https://twitter.com/FoundersTable)

Questions? Connect with Founders Table Network — we're here to help.

