



# UNCONVENTIONAL BUSINESS NETWORK

F O R U M S

LEADER'S GUIDE

## Welcome to UB Forums!

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”

Colossians 3:23-24



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## Unconventional LEADING Curriculum

Each Forum session includes a 20-minute video and complimentary discussion guide for group dialogue and application. Materials are easily accessed through our website. Topics and guest speakers for this series include:

1. Work that Matters
2. Insights from Phil Vischer, VeggieTales' Creator
3. Unconventional LEADING "L" | Loving God at Work
4. Insights from Steve Green of Hobby Lobby
5. Unconventional LEADING "E" | Excellence in the Workplace
6. Insights from Horst Schulze of The Ritz-Carlton
7. Unconventional LEADING "A" | Appreciating Others at Work
8. Insights from Tad Edwards of Benjamin F. Edwards & Co.
9. Unconventional LEADING "D" | Driven by a Higher Purpose *with insights from* Tracy Bouwens of Scooter's Coffee
10. Unconventional LEADING "I" | Integrity in the Workplace *with insights from* Rod Handley, Founder and President of Character That Counts
11. Unconventional LEADING "N" | No Bondage in Life or at Work *with insights from* Jeff Bramstedt of SkyDive San Diego
12. Unconventional LEADING "G" | Generosity at Work *with insights from* Mary Andringa of Vermeer Corporation

### UB VIDEO VAULT

Beginning in 2018, UBN's Rick Boxx asked if keynote speakers would be willing to sit down with him for an additional 30 minutes following each city-wide event to dig deeper into a relevant faith+ work topic. The rich content that resulted fostered UBN's commitment to an exclusive and growing Unconventional Business "Video Vault."

It is our hope that their insights, wisdom and encouragement, coupled with foundational faith + work Biblical principles will serve as powerful catalysts for changed lives, transformed workplaces and impacted communities for Christ.

## Understanding UBN Forums

Unconventional Business Network exists to cultivate a vibrant community of Biblically principled entrepreneurs and their leadership teams. UBN Forums is one of three small group leadership communities within UBN designed to develop unconventional business leaders who see the Bible as the ultimate business handbook.

Scripture says that believers are to live their lives in community with other believers. As *“Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.” (Prov. 27:17 ESV)* Within the Christian community, we are to encourage, serve, correct, instruct, and love one another. UBN Forums supply the opportunity to pour into other believers and like-minded business leaders.

How this happens:

- Inspiring videos and discussion questions developed for each session
- Focused prayer
- Relationships with like-minded business leaders designed to:
  - Encourage each other in God’s Word
  - Advise best business practices for individual issue
  - Emphasize family relationships
  - Provide accountability and confidentiality

## Your Commitment

### Prepare for the Meetings

As a Forum leader, you should have a healthy and daily prayer life, and gird your responsibilities in prayer. Pray for your group members weekly. A week before your Forum, watch the video and review the discussion questions. This gives you time to digest the concepts, explore the scriptures mentioned and listen to the Holy Spirit on how to best lead your group. Email or call each Forum member a week before each meeting to touch base and encourage attendance. UBN will promote your Forum in a weekly Network News email.

### Appoint a Co-Leader

Leading a Forum takes time and work. We encourage you to find a group member who can help lead discussion questions occasionally. Select someone who can develop into a Forum leader after they have gained experience with you. The goal is to then let them split off to start a new group when they become ready.

### Grow Your Group

UBN will supply a Forum leader with names of interested individuals and we will introduce you to them by email. It is then your responsibility to contact them, determine your meeting date and your select your location. You and your group members handle building your group by word of mouth, personal invitations, or other means of communication such as social media and church bulletins.

### Foster Fellowship Opportunities

Fellowship outside of monthly meetings is important to enhance member experiences and grow relationships. They can be as simple as inviting one or two members to lunch to inviting members and their families to a yearly BBQ or bonfire. If this is not one of your strengths, enlist the help of someone in the group who may have more of that ability than you.

## The Meetings

### Forum Materials

All Forum materials are available through our website “.

### The Morning of the Meeting

- Pray. Yes, it seems silly to remind you of the obvious, but we can easily forget prayer in the busyness of life.
- Bring your notes from the time you spent studying your lesson.
- Set up the meeting room. Face your own chair towards the door so you can greet late-comers.
- Supply name tags.
- Greet everyone at the door.
- Respect everyone's time! Start and end on time.

### Sample Meeting Agenda

- 0:00 – 0:25 Welcome everyone at the door and encourage networking
- 0:25 – 0:35 Ask everyone to be seated, pray for the food, and begin eating
- 0:35 – 0:55 Start the video
- 0:55 – 1:20 Review Forum discussion questions
- 1:20 – 1:30 Make announcements, promote next month's lesson, encourage group to invite guests, solicit prayer requests, close in prayer and dismiss

### After the Meeting (the next day)

- Consider emailing one or two of your members to thank them for their participation and the impact it has made on your faith, work, or life.
- Consider emailing or phoning those who couldn't attend. Discover if they have any immediate prayer needs. Encourage them by letting them know they are important to the group and fill them in on what they missed.

### A Final Word on Facilitating Discussions

It is your responsibility to ensure group members hear everyone's voice. Too little control, and certain individuals and personality types will overpower and control the discussion. Too much control, and individuals – especially the quieter ones – will stifle their thoughts and creativity. Yet another reason prayer before each Forum is critical to ensure the Holy Spirit's leading.

UBN is here to support you as a Forum leader. We offer counsel and prayer, and we can talk through any situation you may face as you faithfully serve this God-appointed role. Be sure to reach out to us at any time with concerns, ideas, thoughts, or questions.