

GROWING FAMILIES INTERNATIONAL CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

WHAT IS CERTIFICATION?

The purpose of the GFI Leader Certification Program is to provide churches and class leaders facilitating Growing Families International curricula with information and practical training in the development of leadership skills and a mindset for discipleship ministry. We believe the GFI Leader Certification Program will assist in equipping leaders for their current ministry to families, and also prepare them for future service in other areas of ministry in their local church. Churches that have certified leaders actively involved in their parenting ministry will be used by GFI as an initial referral for anyone inquiring about GFI classes in the church's geographic area.

Class leaders will select one of the following tracks to serve as the foundation for their **Basic Certification: *Preparation for Parenting/Toddler Years* or *Growing Kids God's Way***. Completion of the certification requirements in either of these tracks will provide the leader with Basic Certification.

Basic Certification will be granted to leaders on an individual basis. However, we believe that both husband and wife should pursue certification in this couples' ministry to the family.

Additionally, a couple does not need to receive Basic Certification in the same track. For example, the husband may choose to complete the requirements for the *GKGW* track while the wife may choose to pursue certification in the *Prep/Toddler* track. A leader may receive certification in both tracks.

Basic Certification Requirements:

Husband and wife must each have met the following criteria:

1. Receive a letter of recommendation from their church Pastor or Elder, or a GFI Regional Representative that acknowledges that there is nothing in the leader's character that would violate what is set forth in Scripture (1 Timothy 3 and Titus), and is actively applying the biblical principles presented in the GFI curricula within their own family. This letter will be forwarded to GFI with their application for certification.
2. Completed *Preparation for Parenting*, *Preparation for the Toddler Years*, *Growing Kids God's Way*, and the *Reflections of Moral Innocence* curricula. (This can be done in a class setting or through the use of audio-tapes. Audio-tapes/workbooks of all GFI curricula are available for purchase at this conference at the GFI Curriculum/Resource table.)
3. Functioned as a *Growing Kids God's Way* class leader for at least one complete class cycle if the Basic Certification is for the *GKGW* track. If the Basic Certification is for the *Prep/Toddler* track, the leader must have functioned as a class leader in both *Preparation for Parenting* and *Preparation for the Toddler Years* for at least one complete class cycle. (The leader in either case must have been the class leader and not served as a co-leader or assistant.)
4. Complete the workshops required for certification in their selected track. The leader must participate in at least two of the five workshops required at a national, regional, or mini-leadership conference that offers certification workshops. The remaining three workshops may be completed by listening to certification workshop audio-cassettes.

Certification workshops required for Basic Certification – *Growing Kids God’s Way* track:

- Do’s and Don’ts of Leading a Class
- The Role of the Class Leader
- Getting to the Heart of a Question
- Ministering to Families in Unique Situations
- Implementing the Principles

Certification workshops required for Basic Certification – *Preparation for Parenting/Toddler Years* track:

- Do’s and Don’ts of Leading a Class
 - The Role of the Class Leader
 - Getting to the Heart of the Question
 - The Ministry of the Contact Mom (Ladies)
 - The Contact Mom Training Lab (Ladies)
 - Prep Topic Pool (Men)
 - Maintaining the Funnel (Men)
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- If you have completed all your requirements for Basic Certification and wish to receive your certification application, please contact the GFI Central office at 319-752-5550 or email Lori Moore at lmoore@gfi.org.
 - The *Contact Mom Training Lab* and *The Ministry of the Contact Mom* workshops are not available on audiotape. Therefore, if you desire to pursue certification for the *Prep/Toddler track*, you will need to attend those workshops at this conference.
 - Once a leader has completed all the requirements for Basic Certification, and has passed the final exam, he/she will receive a certificate of Basic Certification from GFI. Every 2-3 years a certified leader will be asked to complete a certification update form that must be mailed back to keep your certification intact. In order for a leader to maintain their Basic Certification they must lead a class every two years. In addition, certified leaders need to attend GFI sponsored National or Regional Leadership/Parenting conferences a minimum of every three years.