

SERMON-BASED LIFE GROUP
LIFE GROUP HOST EXPECTATIONS & RESPONSIBILITIES



As a Life Group Host, you do much more than just providing a home to meet in! You are a vital part of the leadership team. The combination of a committed Leader and a committed Host is hard to beat. Life Group Hosts are expected to do the following:

PREPARE FOR THE MEETING:

- Listen to the sermon
- Complete the homework

ATTEND ALL TRAINING MEETINGS:

- Essentials (New Leader and Host Training) – Second Saturday of September – 8:30am–12:30pm
- Leader/Host Kickoff (ALL Life Group Leaders and Hosts) – Third Friday of September – 5:45pm–9:00pm

HELP THE LEADER CARE FOR MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES:

As the group host, you will often be the first line of spiritual defense in the lives of your group members. It will be your responsibility (along with your leader) to keep in touch with the people in your group. This includes, but isn't limited to:

- Tracking personal problems & needs of group members
- Communicate special needs to pastors – if an issue arises in which you feel it extends beyond your experience, expertise, or comfort zone
- Visit members in the hospital – when a crisis or illness occurs, your group needs to spring into action. The host is responsible for coordinating with the church in providing meals or practical help if necessary and the Leader (along with the rest of the group) need to be available for prayer and support.

ASSIST WITH LIFE GROUP SIGN-UPS

You may be requested to help in the foyer before and after services to answer questions and encourage folks to sign up for Life Groups.

PROVIDE A CLEAN, COMFORTABLE HOME:

Key Questions:

- *Is my house clean and picked up by meeting time?* A clean living room, kitchen, and bathroom help people relax and feel comfortable.
- *Do I have enough comfortable chairs?* Hard chairs make for a long meeting!
- *Do I have enough lighting?* A well-lit room energizes a group, while a dark and dimly room de-energizes it.
- *Is my house free of dog or cat odors?* It's a strange phenomenon that the house you live in is also the place you are least likely to observe smells. Why? Because they're YOUR smells. You've grown used to them. Also remember that many people are allergic to cats or dogs.
- *Are my children interrupting the group?* It's important that children do not interrupt the flow of the meeting, either by coming into the room or by requiring you to leave the room. If children are interrupting or within earshot, the honesty and transparency of the group will suffer.

HOST EXPECTATIONS

PROVIDE A WARM AND FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT:

As part of the leadership team, your job is to help your members feel loved, accepted, and welcome. Be sure to talk with the shy and/or quiet members before and after meetings as well.

PROVIDE SUPPORT & FEEDBACK FOR THE LEADER:

One of the host's jobs is to discuss and evaluate the group with the leader on a regular basis, this often can be done informally after everyone leaves. Another way to help the leader is to jump start the discussion when it lags. By allowing the leader to lead, you may have a better sense of the 'pulse' of the group than the leader. Knowing that a host will help him or her out of a jam gives a leader a lot of security.

FUTURE HOST DEVELOPMENT

You are best suited to discover potential leaders for the future. Near the end of the 10-12 week session, we will reach out to you and ask if there is anyone in your group that you think would make a great future host of a group. You are a host not simply because you have a warm and inviting home, but because of your communicative hosting qualities. Who, within your group, exudes similar qualities?

ORGANIZE THE WEEKLY REFRESHMENTS, SEASONAL POTLUCKS, SOCIALS & COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS:

Refreshments – Hosts are responsible to organize the weekly refreshments and/or desserts. The host is NOT expected to provide them, but should either make a schedule for the group *or* offer to make them.

Socials – With the help of the group, the host makes sure there is at least one social event during the 10-week session (or after it is over)

Service Projects – With the help of the leader, each group is encouraged to carry out one service project together. The Deacons are working to create options for you or you can make your own. You may even choose to be extra ambitious and do a missions project together!

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Committed to Christ, His Word, and His people.
- Committed to integrity, character and spiritual Life
- Have participated in a sermon-based Life Group before
- Helps, Stewardship, and/or Hospitality – strength in one of these three
- Administration and/or Organization – strength in one of these two