

Frequently Asked Questions for Hosting a Home Group

Got questions? You probably do! Hopefully, I have provided you with some of the answers below. If not, please email me at dbennett@calvarybaptist.org. Thank you for your consideration of being a Host.

I'd like to be a Host, but should I wait until I have more experience?

If you have a willing heart, a DVD player, and a few open seats in your living room or workplace, you are ready to be a Host. The DVD based curriculum is "plug and play!" So, anyone with any level of experience can Host a successful group.

Do I have to attend the Host Training Event?

YES. You will receive the curriculum and discover some very important information related to the start of your group.

Can I pick any day of the week to host a group?

YES. Pick the day and time that works best for you. For example, if Thursday nights are "open" in your life, then you might want to host your group on Thursday nights. A busy career couple might want to meet on Sunday evenings, while a mom with kids in school might prefer a group that meets on a weekday morning. It is really up to you. Just pick a night to start and let the group decide from there.

How many weeks am I committing to as a Host?

Your commitment to host is tied directly to the length of the promoted curriculum. However, many groups desire to keep going once the series is completed. When this happens, other curriculum will be made available to your group and sometimes people within the group agree to take turns hosting.

Will I be asked to continue hosting after the promoted curriculum series?

When your commitment is over, each Host will be contacted to find out if your group desires to go beyond the designated study. It is our hope that some Hosts will choose to continue with their new group. If that's not your plan, we hope you will help the group raise up a new host and find a new place to meet and that you will come alongside them and mentor them so that they have a better chance of being successful. We strongly encourage you to rotate homes and hosting facilitation as well.

What is the time requirement each week?

From start to finish, the average home group meeting lasts between 1 ½ to 2 hours. As the Host, you will commit a little extra time between meetings to review the study guide and pray for your group members.

How long is the DVD session each week?

Though the group meeting will last between 1 ½ and 2 hours, the DVD lesson itself will be approximately 15 to 30 minutes in length, depending on the study. The rest of the evening will be spent discussing the lesson, praying together, and just hanging out.

How many people should I be expecting to accommodate?

An ideal number is 8 to 12. This allows for great interaction among the group members. You will have good idea of who is coming the first night, based on your own invitations and people who have contacted you. However, after your first meeting, encourage the group members to invite their friends if you have room available. If your group grows beyond 12, you can break into groups to share and pray after the lesson.

How do I get people to attend my Home Group?

Start by inviting your friends! Think of the people you have already built relationships with such as your neighbors, co-workers, and people at Calvary who have not found a Life Group. You can even encourage them to invite people they know to attend. There will also be some helpful training at the Host Training Event to help you think of others to invite. In addition, we may have names from a “GroupLink” of a few people who desire to belong to a home group and live near you. Lastly, we always publish a current list of available host homes on Calvary’s website and offer a Life Group directory at the Welcome Desk in the lobby. So, you may get a few emails or phone calls from people who visit these sites.

How can I form a group with people who are similar to me?

If you’d like to form a group with a certain affinity, such as: couples, singles, men, or women only, just let me know by way of email dbennett@calvarybaptist.org or call Linda Lutz, my administrative assistant, at 727.441.1581 ext. 121.

I am currently in a Sunday morning Life Group, do I have to leave it to Host?

No. Although many people choose to step out from their Sunday morning group in order to host a home group, others will remain and choose to participate in two groups. Do what feels comfortable.

What is expected of me?

As a Host, we are asking that you open your home or workplace and host a group. We ask that you teach or show a DVD lesson each week and help guide the group in leading itself. We also hope that you will pray for this new group and each of the members individually. At the end of the study, we would hope that people have found a place where they can “belong” while growing closer to Christ and to each

other. We realize your commitment is tied directly to the number of weeks of the study. However, if your group chooses to continue beyond the designated study, we would support you with the necessary resources. We are committed to help you continue with your group only if the group chooses to do so.

Once my group study is over, can I go back to my original Life Group?

Yes. Some people decide to go back to their Life Group and others decide to stay with the new group that formed in their home or workplace with their friends and neighbors. You can do which ever you feel God is leading you to do.

I live out of the area. Should we still consider being a Host home?

Yes! If you live out of the area we would still love to support you as a Host. Pray about which neighbors and friends you could invite to join you for 6 weeks.

How should we handle the childcare issue?

Ultimately, each Host will decide how they will address the issue of childcare. Most groups ask the members to find their own babysitters and attend the group by themselves with the children left at home with the sitter. Some groups put the children together in a “bonus room” at the Host home and all the members pitch in to pay a sitter to watch and care for them. Childcare vouchers are available for people to get reimbursed for childcare expenses. These vouchers are available at the Life Group Information Desk in the lobby on Sunday mornings. There are many creative solutions and it is a great idea to address these up front with the people you are inviting.

I will be out of town during one of the weeks of the series. Any ideas?

Sure. On the night you will miss, simply plan on having others lead and facilitate the evening.

Do we need a large home to host?

Absolutely not! Most groups will end up with 10 to 12 people. If your group grows larger than that we'll help you figure out how to make it work!

Will my name and number be posted for others to see?

At the Host Training Event you will be asked to complete an information sheet. On that sheet you will be asked whether you'd like your group to be listed on our web listing of groups. It is another helpful way for people to find your group. But, it's your call.

Below is Calvary's vision path and the four foundations of a Life Group. Thank You for seeking God's direction in hosting a group. If you have further questions, please let me know!

God's Blessings!

Danny Bennett

Pastor of Life Development

Calvary's Life Group Strategy

Life Groups are the place where people BELONG on their Life's Journey



Four Foundations of a Life Group

1. Bible Study
2. Prayer
3. Care
4. Fellowship