

Hosting A Small Group @ Christ Community



We're thrilled that you're interested in learning more about hosting a Small Group at Christ Community Church. These groups play a vital role in connecting people more deeply in their relationship with God, one another, and the ministry of Christ Community Church. They also are strategic in helping people think more deeply about the Word of God they experience through the messages each weekend in our services.

As a *Small Group Host* you do much more than just provide a home to meet in! You are a vitally important part of your Small Group team. The combination of a committed Leader and a committed Host (each focusing on their roles within the group) is hard to beat. Here's a list of

some of the basics involved in being a Host.

If, after reading these, your heart is beating a little faster and you would like to find out more, contact Dick Dougherty (405-1120 / dickd@cccgreeley.org). He'd be more than happy to speak with you or connect you with one of our Small Group Shepherding Team members for further conversation.

TO PROVIDE A CLEAN, COMFORTABLE HOME ENVIRONMENT

Some Key Questions:

- **Is my house reasonably clean and picked up by meeting time?**
Martha Stewart isn't necessary! A reasonably clean house, however, helps people relax and feel comfortable in your home.
- **Do I have enough comfortable chairs or beanbags for the floor?**
Hard chairs make for a long meeting!
- **Do I have enough lighting?**
A well lit (not glaring!) room energizes a group, while a dark or dim room de-energizes it. Maybe it's time to add a lamp to that dark corner!
- **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 meeting on a frequent basis. Of course, there will be times when this is unavoidable due to an emergency or special circumstance. But these times should be the exception, not the rule. If children are interrupting or within earshot, the honesty and transparency of the group will suffer, which is why we encourage each group to have their younger children cared for at a location separate from the home where the group will be meeting, if at all possible.

TO PROVIDE A WARM AND FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT

Partner with the Leader to help your members feel loved, accepted, and welcome.

This involves things like:

- Introducing folks to one another during your first gathering.
- Making sure to talk with and involve the shy or less popular members before and after meetings.
- Providing positive feedback and support to various group members during the meetings.

TO PROVIDE SUPPORT & FEEDBACK FOR THE LEADER

One of the host's most important jobs is to help the Leader process group dynamics and partner with him/her as needed. This often can be done informally after everyone leaves.

Items to discuss include:

- What's going well in the group? What's not?
- Who's hurting in the group? Who's growing? How should we be responding?
- Are we dividing your time wisely in the meetings? Are we balancing between sharing, study and prayer?
- How can we encourage quiet members to share more openly?

Another way to help your leader is to jump start the discussion when it lags.

Sometimes a question will elicit no one response (either because everyone is nervous or because the question was unclear). Whenever this happens, you can help your leader by breaking the ice and answering the question yourself. Or, if the question is unclear, you can ask the leader to rephrase it. This provides an opportunity to regroup and come at the issue from a different angle. Knowing that your hosts will help you out of a jam gives a leader a lot of security.

TO HELP THE LEADER MOBILIZE OTHERS IN PROVIDING MEALS FOR MEMBERS IN NEED

The Host should partner with the Leader to mobilize the group to meet practical needs whenever they arise in the group. A common example would be the need for meals during a time of illness or crisis, or other things that might call for group involvement.

TO ORGANIZE WEEKLY REFRESHMENTS, AND TO HELP MOBILIZE THE GROUP FOR POTLUCKS AND SOCIALS WHEN SCHEDULED.

Hosts are responsible to organize the weekly refreshments and/or desserts.

You will also work with your leader to plan at the opening gathering if there's to be a meal, and be the point person for the group having at least one social event per session. Once planned, the host is responsible to organize and oversee the details, for example:

- Making sure someone is responsible to oversee the bringing and serving of food.
- Making sure someone is responsible for making any necessary reservations for the group's social.
- Making sure someone is responsible for calling/e-mailing to remind members about an upcoming social.



In addition, if the group decides to continue in whole or in part, the Host will partner with the leader for facilitating any relational gatherings in-between group sessions (e.g. over the Summer, during the Christmas holidays, etc.)