

Hosting Tips

- Don't answer your own questions.
- Get comfortable with silence and quiet.
- Encourage more than a yes-or-no answer.
- Anything else?... How about?... Someone else?
- Give affirmation whenever you can.
- Try to involve everyone.
- Be good listeners – provide support, not quick fixes.
- Be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- Begin and end on time.
- Don't focus on getting through all the material – focus on helping people grow.

Tips for H.O.S.T.s

Mix up curriculum to provide balance. Some people may want to study the “last times” forever, but a healthy diet includes all kinds of food. Occasionally encourage the group to try a study that no one has considered, because it may just be the study that opens your group to a whole new level of maturity.

Tips for H.O.S.T.s

Remember, in all things, it is important to be authentic; just be yourself. Don't try to do things exactly like any of the people on your team. Use the things you gain from them, add your own style and do things in a way that is real. Admit when you don't have an answer and apologize when you make a mistake. Your group will love you for it and you'll sleep better at night.

Tips for H.O.S.T.s

Regularly have the group read the three passages listed below and discuss how they apply to inviting new people to your small group. Matthew 9:35-38; Philippians 2:1-5; 2 Corinthians 6:11-13

Tips for H.O.S.T.s

Let your group play an active role in selecting curriculum. As you approach the last session of each study, bring out the list of curriculum resources and ask each person to suggest the next study. If someone is particularly passionate about one study, or the majority of people want a particular study, that makes your decision easy and also helps meet hidden needs in your group.

Tips for H.O.S.T.s

Whenever your group is larger than 6 people, try breaking into smaller groups of no more than 4 to 6. With a greater opportunity to talk in a small circle, people will connect more with the study, apply more quickly what they're learning, and ultimately get more out of it. A small circle also encourages a quiet person to participate and tends to minimize the effects of a more vocal or dominant member. Small circles are also helpful during prayer time. People who are unaccustomed to praying aloud will feel more comfortable trying it with just two or three others. When you gather back with the whole group, you can have one person from each circle briefly share their circle's prayer requests.

Tips for H.O.S.T.s

Let the group run without you. Resist the temptation to suspend the group when you go on vacation. Instead, line up the team and let them run the entire group in your absence. Do the same thing if a key person will be absent for one or more meetings. Simply ask another person if they would be willing to take on the other individual's role during the absence.

Tips for H.O.S.T.s

Don't try to do it alone. Pray for God to help you build a healthy team. If you can enlist a Future Host to help you lead the group, you will find your experience much richer. This is your chance to involve as many people as you can in building a healthy group. All you have to do is ask people to help and you'll be surprised at the response.

Tips for H.O.S.T.s

Pray for your group members by name. Before you begin each meeting, take a few moments and pray for each member by name. Ask God to use your time together to touch the heart of every person uniquely. Expect God to lead you to whomever He wants you to encourage or challenge in a special way.

Tips for H.O.S.T.s

Provide transitions between questions. Ask if anyone would like to read the paragraph or Bible passage. Don't call on anyone, but ask for a volunteer, and then be patient until someone begins. Be sure to thank the person who reads aloud.