

10 TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL GROUP GATHERINGS



Follow these helpful tips to have a successful Community Group gathering!

BEFORE THE GATHERING

1. Pray.

Ask God to bless your gathering, to remove hindrances for people to come, to give you wisdom in leading the group, and for everyone to feel comfortable sharing and enjoy the time together. Ask the Holy Spirit to be present during the gathering and to help everyone grow in wisdom, knowledge, application, and ultimately to be more like Jesus.

2. Contact every potential group member before the gathering.

Whether it's a phone call, text, email, invite card, or even a conversation at church, work, or class, be sure to contact every potential group member before each meeting to remind them of the specifics of the group gathering (day, time, location, what chapter to read, etc.).

3. Prepare a welcoming environment.

Think about the space you will utilize. Are there enough seats? Are the lights too dim or too bright? Are the snacks ready to go? Does the video and sound work? Should we play soft music? What will we do with the kids?

DURING THE GATHERING

4. Welcome everyone when they arrive and introduce people to each other.

There's no greater way to make people feel comfortable than to be met at the front door with a smiling, welcoming face. If your group is meeting for the first time, be sure to introduce everyone to each other and, if possible, wear name tags.

5. Be positive, no matter the turnout.

If only a few people show up, stay positive. Tell them you are excited about what God has in store for the night. At the end of the time, tell them how much you enjoyed the gathering and ask them if they know anyone they could bring with them next week.

6. At the beginning, ask an ice-breaker question.

This is a great way to break down barriers and open up the opportunity for people to get to know each other and connect more relationally. Simply google "community group ice breaker questions".

7. Follow a schedule.

Suggested schedule: Ice-breaker, show video, discuss questions, take prayer requests, and pray together.

8. End on time.

People will love it when you end on time and if you don't finish the discussion it will leave them wanting more!

AFTER THE GATHERING

9. Send communication thanking everyone for coming and follow up with prayer requests.

10. Plan a get together outside of group time.

Getting together outside of group time for coffee, dinner, a movie, or a game will build relationships that will increase the success of the group gatherings. It builds community!