



PREPARING FOR YOUR FIRST GROUP GATHERING

The purpose of the first Group gathering is to help people feel comfortable and welcome in your home or meeting space. It should be simple and enjoyable for the members as well as the leaders.

Here are a few tips:

1. Contact the members of your Group and provide them with your address and phone number.
2. It is ideal for the seating to be arranged around a table together or in a round where everyone can participate together. You'll want to make sure there are enough seats for each member.
3. The first meeting is a great place to pass around a snack sign up for the remaining 7-9 meetings. You can have two people sign up each week, so the group has one salty snack and one sweet snack.
4. Open & close in prayer. Each meeting open in prayer for your Group's time together. Close by praying for your members or follow the prompts in your study curriculum. As a leader we encourage you to pray before each meeting to ask God for wisdom to lead your group well each night.
5. Review weekly Group Discussion Notes or your study curriculum so you are prepared. It's your role to facilitate discussion, not to provide the answers to the discussion questions. A successful group meeting is one where everyone shares. As Leader/Host you are responsible to keep the conversation flowing and build relationships.
6. Go through the **Group Health and Agreement** together to provide your group with clear expectations.
7. **CONSIDER:** The first night is always a perfect time to for an established Group to reconnect and the best time for new Groups, or Groups with new members, to get acquainted. Consider starting your first meeting a half hour earlier to share a meal and talk about what God is doing in each other's lives. A successful first meeting is one where everyone feels seen and known. Where each person feels connected ENGAGES in the discussion.
 - Questions to ask around the table:



- How long have you been coming to Crossroads? What made you come back the second time?
- Tell us about your family
- What do you hope to get out of this group?

Group Health and Agreement

Date:

Leader Name:

Phone Number:

Host Name:

Phone Number:



Groups thrive on participation! The purpose of this document is to help you to discuss and clarify your Group's goals, expectations, and commitments.

GROUPS PURPOSE

Groups exist to help member grow in their faith and take their next step in spiritual maturity. It fosters personal growth through meaningful relationships and the study of God's Word (Romans 8:29 & Hebrews 10:24, 25). We will do this by focusing on four primary activities:

SHARE

At Crossroads we are encouraged regularly share our testimony of what God is doing in our lives. At first this sharing will include provided "ice breaker questions" to get the conversation started. After a time, it will become more informal and personal group members get to know and trust each other.

STUDY

Each week there will be a study of a section from God's Word that relates to the current sermon series or an appropriate personal growth topic. Our goal is to learn how to live out our life as Jesus followers every day. An learn practical application for His Word that we can encourage one another in.

SUPPORT

We will learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (John 15:9-13). This is what it means to be a part of community. This care can come in the form of prayer, encouragement, listening, challenging one another, and taking spiritual next steps together.

SERVE

Our Church encourages us to obey from the heart by discovering our giftedness and then seeking a place to serve God in the Church and in the community using our gifts. Our gifts are important to the health of the church, and we are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus to our community (Ephesians 4:11-16). Throughout the quarter, we hope that you can find and/or be affirmed in the ways God has designed you to serve and make a difference in God's Kingdom.