

## WHAT IS A SMALL GROUP HOST? | FOR GROUP LEADERS

---

### WHAT IS A SMALL GROUP HOST?

Here at Grace Church, we define a Small Group Host as the person who is the liaison between their small group members and the Small Group Staff. This person does not need to have any special education or skills, they just have to need a heart for serving God and serving others. Other names you may hear for this position are the Group Leader or the Group Coordinator. Here is an acrostic we use to help remind you of what a host does:

**H** – Have a **Heart** for people.

*The whole point of what we're urging is simply love - love uncontaminated by self-interest and counterfeit faith, a life open to God. Those who fail to keep to this point soon wander off into dead ends of gossip. They set themselves up as experts on religious issues, but haven't the remotest idea of what they're holding forth with such imposing eloquence.*

**1 Timothy 1:5-7** (MSG)

**O** – **Open** your home, or arrange to meet in another appropriate place.

*Stay on good terms with each other, held together by love. Be ready with a meal or a bed when it's needed. Why, some have extended hospitality to angels without ever knowing it.*

**Hebrews 13:1-2** (MSG)

**S** – Serve a **Snack**. Provide or delegate the responsibility of providing a snack for your meeting. If your group is up to it, you can even have a meal together before your meeting.

*Better a bread crust shared in love than a slab of prime rib served in hate.*

**Proverbs 15:17** (MSG)

**T** – **Talk** about the past weekend's message or **Turn** on a video study.

*Stick with what you learned and believed, sure of the integrity of your teachers - why, you took in the sacred Scriptures with your mother's milk! There's nothing like the written Word of God for showing you the way to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. Every part of Scripture is God-breathed and useful one way or another - showing us truth, exposing our rebellion, correcting our mistakes, training us to live God's way. Through the Word we are put together and shaped up for the tasks God has for us.*

**2 Timothy 3:14-17** (MSG)

## WHAT IS A SMALL GROUP HOST? | FOR GROUP LEADERS

---

### THE ROLE OF A SMALL GROUP HOST AND CO-HOST

#### **Hosts:**

Each group has a Host who facilitates the organization and study of the group. The host's role is to see that each of the following elements is provided for their group. The best way to provide these elements is to have various group members take ownership for an element on a regular or rotating basis. The more ownership each group member takes in the group, the better the group will function. Ownership will automatically help you with consistent attendance and care for all members in your group.

- **Meeting:** Meet on a consistent and regular basis to provide continuity and stability for your group. The organization and communication of this element are vital to your group's success.
- **Communication:** Communicate regularly with the Small Groups Director. The best way to communicate is by using Grace Connect or the LEAD app to keep your group roster current and take attendance for each meeting. Additionally, be sure to answer any emails that require a response, let us know if you have questions or are having issues in your group, and make sure to fill out the Small Group Health Survey twice a year when it is emailed to you – and encourage your members to complete theirs too.
- **Setting:** Provide a comfortable, inviting setting. Most groups meet in a home, either the host's home or the home of another member. Other places that groups can meet are public gathering places such as local restaurants, coffee shops, libraries, or parks.
- **Atmosphere:** Maintain compassion, order, focus, and confidentiality in the group to promote a safe and comfortable atmosphere for fellowship and learning.
- **Fellowship:** Facilitate planned times for your group members to relax and bond with each other to nurture relationships, enjoy food, and have fun! Service projects can be a great time for fellowship. You can designate the role of planning fellowship opportunities to one of your group members.
- **Sharing:** Promote conversation and interaction that will build solid relationships and learning opportunities.
- **Caring:** Care for the members of your group and support them with spiritual support, friendship, and accountability. Be attentive and sensitive to the needs in your group and lead your group in serving and caring for each other's needs and praying for each other.

## WHAT IS A SMALL GROUP HOST? | FOR GROUP LEADERS

---

- **Learning:** The Small Group Team has access to many resources for you to use as you facilitate the discussions of your group members. Our team has a 2-year curriculum track, with study topics and resources, for any group wanting to follow that, as well as access to other approved studies.
- **Delegate:** Recognize the gifts and talents in your group members and invite them to take on various roles in your small group. This will help promote unity and ownership within your group.
- **Equip Leaders:** Recognize leadership abilities in others and invite them to share in leadership responsibilities. This will not only provide a leader in your absence, but will also give others the confidence to take on a host/leadership role if they feel called to start their own group in the future.
- **Growth:** Have an open-door policy, promoting the invitation of new members, keeping in mind that as you grow you may need to break into smaller subgroups for discussion and prayer time.
  - If your group becomes too large to physically fit in your meeting space, you should consider breaking into 2 separate groups.
  - You can meet as 2 groups for your small group time and then continue to all meet together for larger fellowship activities.
- **Support:** Stand behind the purpose and mission statement of Grace Church, as well as the mission and purposes of Small Groups. Pray for the church and the Small Group ministry on a regular basis.

### Co-Hosts:

Often 2 couples, or 2 people, lead a group together. One person is considered the Host and the other the Co-Host. A Co-Host can help to lighten the load of the Host. They should be trained in all aspects of hosting including facilitating meetings, prayer, communion, scheduling, attendance, etc. It is a good idea to cultivate Co-Hosts from your group to be able to host/lead in your absence. Some groups have multiple members who can serve as Co-Hosts, which is wonderful because if the main Host needs to step away from their role for any reason, the group can smoothly transition to a different host and stay together.

### Host Criteria:

- Complete, or be in the process of completing all Membership Classes (101-401).
  - Host should encourage all of their group members to complete the Membership Classes as well.
- The membership covenant must be signed in the 101 class. All Membership Classes need to be completed within 6 months of starting as a group host.
- Have a meeting with the Small Groups Director or a Host Training session before becoming a host.