

Yes, YOU can be.....a Host!

Hosting a LifeGroup is an opportunity to grow in faith while serving others. It's an opportunity not just for people to be in your home, but for growing in faith through creating meaningful connections. Here are seven tips for hosting a LifeGroup with joy that will infect both your life and the lives of those around you.

1. Commit Only to What You Can Do Joyfully & Be Honest About Your Needs and Limitations

Hosting is a huge responsibility. You should not offer to do anything that you cannot do with joy. Carefully consider how much you can stretch yourself while maintaining a joyful and giving attitude. Hosting also doesn't have to mean doing it all yourself. It is okay to ask for help in planning as well as with logistical issues such as cleaning, preparing refreshments, and setting up a space.

2. Don't Overdo It

Creating a welcoming and warm space will require effort. You should pick up, vacuum or sweep, and ensure that there is adequate space for the expected guests. However, your home does not have to be immaculate. If you plan to offer meals, it's fine to offer simple fare or delegate it among group members. Don't let extraneous details become an idol.

3. Create an Intimate and Welcoming Space

Ensure that there is ample seating and that you have all necessary materials in the room. If your meeting space is large, move the furniture closer so people can interact with ease.

4. Minimize Interruptions, including your pets

Most of us love furry friends, but not everyone can be around pets. Put your pets away in another room or in a crate to minimize distraction.

5. Know Your Group's Food Restrictions

Find out food restrictions before your meetings begin in order to be accommodating to everyone.

6. Reject Worry & Add Prayer

It's easy to worry about hosting. You may worry that your home is not nice enough or large enough and that will negatively influence the group meeting. These worries do nothing to prevent issues, but they do steal your joy. Prayer is the best way to maintain joy in hosting. Pray while planning and setting up, pray after the members leave your home, and pray regularly for everyone involved. Pray that your group be a source of learning and spiritual growth. There are some things that we cannot control, so take it to God.

7. Keep the Focus on People

It's easy to forget that LifeGroup is about people. Even if things don't go according to your plan, everything is according to God's plan. Let your home be a place to connect on a spiritual level with other believers; the rest is all extra. God and people are always the priorities.