



Get Your Group Started

Congratulations on starting your Community Group!

You've just taken a huge step toward spiritual health - not only for yourself, but for those who will be in your group!

You might be thinking, "What did I get myself into?" That's okay! The wonderful thing about this process is that God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things! You don't have to be a Bible expert or teacher to Host a thriving group. All you have to do is:

- (H) - Have a heart for people
- (O) - Open a space for the group to meet
- (S) - Serve a snack
- (T) - Turn on a video

Okay, let's briefly go over a few questions that people in your group will likely ask.

- Do I fit here?
 - This is a question of acceptance. The answer is YES! Personally invite your friends, your family, even your coworkers into your group! This brings purpose to the friendships with each other, while deepening relationships with one another.
 - **Action Step:** have a conversation with your group about others that they could invite, and how your group can make these new people feel welcome and accepted.

- Am I needed?

- This is a question of value. The answer is YES! Everyone wants to feel valued, not only for who they are, but what they can bring to the table. Here are a few ways to bring value to each member of your group:
 - Assign someone each week to organize snacks
 - Take turns hosting the meeting
 - Keep track of prayer requests
 - Plan a social event
 - Follow up with group members who were absent
 - Maintain a list of birthdays, anniversaries, and other important dates
 - Create a group text or Facebook group
- **Action Step:** facilitate shared ownership by finding roles or responsibilities for every person in your group.

- What is the advantage of joining this group?

- This is a question of benefit. Each person will be receiving information through a shared video or particular curriculum you select. This is great! However, one of the benefits of your group comes in the form of group discussions, where each person can ask tough questions in a safe place. Here are a few ways to facilitate your group discussions:
 - Encourage open ended questions i.e. questions requiring more than "yes" or "no" answers
 - Get comfortable with silence and quiet
 - Be good listeners - provide support, not quick fixes
 - Be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit
 - Don't focus on getting through all the material - focus on helping people grow.
- Another benefit is time together! It answers the question "Do I fit here?" by fostering deeper relationships over time. It allows people to share their struggles and receive prayers in a personal way!
- **Action Step:** can you think of other ways your group provides benefits?

- What is required for joining this group?

- This is a question of expectations. We're asking you to come as you are! However, here are a few guidelines that you can think about:

- **Maintain safety and confidentiality:** What happens in CG stays in CG! Creating a safe place (no quick answers, snap judgements, or simple fixes) for people to be heard and feel loved is a cornerstone of Community Groups.
- **Share roles in the Community Group:** This is OUR CG! Whether that's bringing snacks, hosting, facilitating discussions, collecting prayer requests, or something else, everyone plans an important role.
- **Resolve conflict biblically:** We're all human, and we all have issues. Conflict is bound to happen, but when it does, it's okay! That makes our community normal. Instead of panicking, gossiping, or letting the issue grow larger, we'll resolve concerns quickly by consulting Jesus' advice in Matthew 18:15-17.
- **Optional: Care well for our kids:** If you anticipate kids being part of your group, it would be great to add a word about how involved they'll be in meetings, how they'll be cared for when not present, etc.

- **Action Step:** Discuss and establish guidelines for your group

Support System

Okay, now let's talk about your support system! We want you to know, you're not alone! We're ready to come alongside you on this journey, sending you tips and tricks to help you facilitate and host a thriving group.

We will connect you with a Community Group Coach, or simply a Coach, who will be a resource for you that provides encouragement, mentorship, inspiration, and of course prayer throughout your journey as a host.

During our church wide campaigns, we will provide all necessary curriculum and materials for your group. After the campaign is over, we will also provide example curriculums you may use throughout your hosting journey.

Next steps–Getting your group established

Okay, you've opened your heart to become a host, and created a group. YES! I'm proud of you! What's next, you ask? Here are few next steps to complete:

- Invite people into your group: if you have not already, begin inviting your friends, family, or coworkers into your group! Send a text message, make a phone call, or for the personal touch, invite them to coffee and let them know about this Community Group you've started! Let them know this great opportunity to do life and grow together!
- Collect names for your group members. It would be great to have the number of members and names associated with your CG.

Okay that's it! If you have any questions about Community Groups, feel free to contact mark@lineage.us or community@lineage.us.

Congratulations on starting your group! We're excited to see what journey God takes you and your group through in this season!

Blessings,

Lineage Community Group Team