



home groups

HOST PACKET

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:2-25

Welcome

Thank you for your interest in joining the home group ministry! Home Groups are such a vital part of who we are as a church and much of our identity as a church centers on our body taking an active role in this more intimate study and fellowship. It is our prayer that, if the Lord does indeed call you to host a home group, your time and ministry would be fruitful. Even more, we pray that you, as the host, would experience the power of the Holy Spirit at work in your home each time your group meets together.

Why home groups?

We as believers are not meant to “do life” alone. By God’s design, we are created to walk with each other, grow alongside one another, and to glorify God together. Everyone needs the support and encouragement of other people; everyone needs a true biblical community.

We encourage anyone who considers CCSE their home-church to seriously consider the importance of this type of community in their own life.

Each of our Home Groups represents a segment of our church body who are actively choosing to grow with a biblical community through committing to **doing life together**. Our prayer is that each group, through the power of the Holy Spirit, works as one body to love and serve each other and their local community in unity.

How is this accomplished?

Home Groups are designed to complement our weekend worship services by providing a more intimate setting for people to further study and discuss the weekly teaching. For this reason, the format of our group time is very simple.

- **We keep it Gospel Centered:** All that we do in our home groups is in response to, and because of, the work of God's grace in and through our lives. (1 Corinthians 2:2)
- **We spend time in the Word:** We take time to discuss and process the message from the weekend worship service. As a group, we develop a greater understanding of how we can apply the Word to our life in a practical way. The study of the Word in this context is essentially biblical discipleship. We are following the model that Jesus established in the Gospels with his own intimate group of 12 disciples. Through this close relationship, He opened their understanding to the Scriptures. Within those times of teaching, they learned who Jesus was and how to more closely follow Him, so they themselves could be sent out to disciple others. **Discipleship is a biblical mandate.** Our home groups are designed to build a community that cultivates this principle of disciples becoming disciple makers. (Matthew 28:19-20)
- **We pray for one another:** We do this so that we may minister to one another as we bring their needs before God. Intercessory prayer is an important aspect of the Christian life and helps place emphasis on our caring for one another and seeking the Lord together. (James 5:16)
- **We care for one another:** The work of caring for the church cannot be limited to the pastoral staff alone. The body of Christ is called to share in this work, whether the care is physical, emotional, financial or spiritual. (Ephesians 4:11)
- **We go on mission together:** Jesus came on a mission and gave us a mission. As the church we should live and breathe this mission. (Mark 16:15)

Host Home

It is strongly recommended that the group meets in a home other than the group leader's home. This allows the group leader to focus on leading. It also provides an opportunity for more people to be involved in this ministry.

Requirements for hosts

1. A prospective host must be an active part of Calvary Chapel Southeast for a minimum of six months.
2. A prospective host must have read the expectations of a group host (below)
3. They must understand and support the vision of Calvary Chapel Southeast.
4. Must be approved by Pastors/Elders.

Expectations for hosts

- Provide a comfortable, welcoming meeting place. Set an atmosphere of love and acceptance for all, helping each one to feel at home. Be prepared to help people with the "little things" i.e. where to put their coats, where the bathroom is, etc.
- Support the leader by encouraging interaction within the group. This may be accomplished by the use of seating (circle as opposed to rows) refreshments, etc. It is important to remember, however, that the group leader has the responsibility to make the final decisions.
- Refreshments are encouraged, but they are not required. If your group chooses to have refreshments, don't take all the burden upon yourself. Be creative and set up a system to share this responsibility with the whole group. (i.e. snack sign-up, potluck)
- Set up coffee, tea, refreshments, etc. before the meeting begins. Likewise, wait until guests have left before cleaning up. Keeping these distractions to a minimum will allow you the freedom to fully enjoy the fellowship time.
- Have some extra Bibles on hand to give to any that do not have one and for those who have forgotten theirs. Bibles may be obtained free of charge at the church.
- Child care is up to each group. If you have the space, it is a wonderful ministry. If you want to try it, you can have group members take turns or have the group pitch in for the cost of hiring a trusted individual to watch the children.
- And most importantly...relax, have fun, and enjoy serving the Lord!

Important questions to consider before accepting this role as host

1. **Have you first counted the cost?** As with anything that is effective, there will be personal sacrifices involved.

- **Does your spouse and family support your role?** Family life is a priority and thus your family should be considered in the decisions you make. They are also making sacrifices. If they are not supportive, you will never be effective.
- **Do you have a genuine love and concern for the Body of Jesus Christ?**
- **Are you mature in the faith?** Have you endured through struggles and hardships and yet been persistent in walking with the Lord?
- **Are you grounded in the Word?** Spending time with God through studying His Word and through prayer is vital to staying grounded.
- **Do you understand and agree with the basic doctrines and philosophy of Calvary Chapel?** This is not meant to be exclusionary, but it is essential that the ministry of the local church be carried by leaders of like mind and vision.
- **Are you willing to be accountable to others?** You will be accountable to the group leader and the church leadership.
- **Are you willing to be patient?** At times in this ministry you will have to display patience toward those that are not easy to love.
- **Are you willing to be an example?** Not of perfection, but of the process of the Holy Spirit working in your life.
- **Is there any hidden sin in your life which must first be dealt with before you feel you should accept this position?**
- **Are you already an active participant within the church?**
- **Do you understand the need and importance of your role?**