

HOSTING A BLUE GROUP

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW



OCTOBER 2017

WE ARE SO GLAD YOU'RE HOSTING!

Our hope is to guide you through everything you need to know so you feel confident in hosting. Our first encouragement is this, be **authentically** you. We aren't looking for people with a Masters in Biblical Study, just those with a willingness to invite community into their lives and go deeper in the Word of God. If this is you, then you are already equipped with nearly everything you need.

Hosting a group is simple! Here is where to begin:

1. Decide a time and location

Your BLUE group will meet once a week for 5 weeks. You can open up your home, meet at a coffee shop, after a weekend service, happy hour, etc! We encourage you meet anywhere between an hour to an hour and a half. It all depends on what you hope to accomplish in your gathering. If you include a potluck style meal, or a want an extended fellowship time apart from the study you might want to set a longer time frame. You get to choose the day that works best for you! **The series begins October 7/8. This means your first gathering will follow that first message.**

2. Choose your demographic

You might want to appeal to a specific group of people. Such as a women's or men's group, married couples, etc. More importantly we will be listing groups by neighborhood location. Many people are eager to find something in proximity to them. With that in mind, we encourage you to have a group that is open to receiving anyone and everyone! But ultimately we want you to follow what God has put on your heart!

3. Provided Information

We will need you to provide an email, phone number, and street address so that we can list these things on our handout and website! This is how you will correspond with those who are interested in joining your group. The basic street address allows people to gauge where they are in proximity to you!

These components are very important for our coordinator, Emily, to know asap. If you haven't already let her know she will be in touch with you. You can email her at:

efry@westsidechurch.org.

WHAT'S NEXT?

After we have gathered this information from you we will encourage people to join a group! We will have printed handouts with all the groups listed as well as posted on our website.

HERE'S WHERE YOU COME IN:

-People will start corresponding with you **directly!** With the contact info that you provided they will call or email you to get your exact address. It's here too that you will let people know any additional info they might need. (Like if you're choosing a potluck style gathering.)

MAKE SURE everyone has picked up a study journal in the Atrium or Westside Bookstore, it's a must for participating!

-Keep track of people's names and contact info with either the sheet we provided or something you have. It's important that you take initiative to contact them each week with a reminder. (Especially a reminder before your very first gathering.)

-We also encourage you to be inviting people you know in your life, or people you meet at weekend services! The most thriving groups are the ones where the Hosts really took initiative to build it.

HOW TO HOST

The “Teach Us to Pray” study journal is designed to be your guide. (Every BLUE Host is gifted a journal!) It incorporates your own daily personal study, and at the end of each week it provides discussion questions for you to use. Between what you’re hearing on the weekend in the messages, your daily study, and the questions provided for you there should be plenty for you to discuss!

Your main role is to **facilitate**. Do something for me, take any pressure off yourself to have to *create* or *force* a “meaningful” time. The fact ALONE that you have opened your home and life to community is extremely special. Keep it simple, ask the questions, and pray together! **The best leaders just know how to ask the right questions.** We see it as a BIG win for you to build relationship, laugh, and share some life together. The journal and questions are a tool for you to meet THAT goal!

As a Host be sure you are engaging in the three components of BLUE (Beginning the weekend of October 7/8)

1. Attend or listen online to the messages of the series
2. Engage in the study journal daily
3. Be the encouragement to your group members to be doing the same

This is a very special series! It’s focussed on prayer. Lean into that. We believe you’re going to go through BLUE developing great friendships and draw closer to Jesus.

We are praying for you. We believe that you’re doing this for a purpose bigger than you! The Kingdom is at work!

If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact our coordinator, Emily Fry.

Email: efry@westsidechurch.org

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