

SMALL GROUP HOST FAQ

I'D LIKE TO BE A HOST, BUT SHOULD I WAIT UNTIL I HAVE MORE EXPERIENCE?

If you have a willing heart, online access or a DVD player, and an eagerness to create a place to meet then you are ready to be a host. The videos and curriculum are "plug and play" so that anyone with any level of experience can host a successful group. You can also host a group at your work place or a local restaurant/coffee shop. Our videos will be placed on the Second Baytown page in Right Now Media. You and your members can access a free RNM account through our website at <http://www.secondbaytown.org/home/resources>. If you are meeting online or in a public place, your group members can go to RNM and watch the video in advance. Then when you have the meeting you can just discuss the material and you do not have to worry about showing the video over an online platform or in a loud environment.

ON WHICH DAY OF THE WEEK DOES THE MEETING TAKE PLACE?

One of the great things about the Limitless study is that it fits with every person's schedule. Pick the day and time that works best for you. For example, if Thursday nights are easy, open nights in your life then you might want to host your group on Thursday nights. A busy career couple might want to meet on Saturday mornings, while a mom with kids in school might prefer a group that meets on a weekday morning. The typical time slot will be 1½ to 2 hours (Unless you choose the workplace/coffee shop/ restaurant option then the time is shorter because you will have already viewed the video). It is ultimately up to you. Just pick a night to start and let the group decide from there.

WHAT IS THE TIME REQUIREMENT EACH WEEK?

From start to finish, the average small group meeting lasts about 1½ hours (Unless you choose the online or workplace/coffee shop/restaurant option then the time is shorter because you will have already viewed the video). As the host, you might commit to a little extra time between meetings each week to review the book and the leader material as well as to pray for your group members.

HOW LONG IS THE VIDEO SESSION EACH WEEK?

Though the group meeting will last around 1½ hours, the video itself will be approximately 12-15 minutes in length.

HOW MANY WEEKS AM I COMMITTING TO?

Your commitment is to host the six-week study that accompanies our pastors' message series. You will also be encouraged (but not required) to rotate the facilitator role to a different member each meeting. This helps grow other members and gives you a break. Healthy groups rotate overtime but not overnight. At the end of the six sessions each host will decide whether to continue with the group or help the group to identify a new host.

HOW MANY PEOPLE SHOULD I BE EXPECTING TO ACCOMMODATE?

We suggest inviting between 15-30 people. Then, after the first night, let the group invite some of their own friends. In our experience, about half of those who say they will come will actually come. An ideal number of people to have in a small group is 6-12. This allows for great interaction. If your group gets much larger you can break into smaller groups to share and pray after the Bible study portion of the meeting. You can have groups as small as 3 or as large as 20 as the space permits.

DO WE NEED A LARGE HOME TO HOST?

Absolutely not! We have found that most groups will end up with 8 to 10 people. Don't forget that you can also meet at your workplace, a restaurant or a coffee shop. Sometimes a group even meets in a local park.

IS THERE ANY TRAINING TO HELP ME GET READY TO HOST MY GROUP?

YES. We are here to help you and we want to make sure that all of your questions are answered as you begin this awesome journey with us this fall! Training will occur on Sunday August 18th at 12:15pm with a light lunch. For ongoing group hosts there will continue to be other training offered in the future.

WHO WILL BE IN THE GROUP I WILL HOST?

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We want you to start by inviting your friends! They are the most natural place to start. You can even ask them if they know anyone who would like to come.

HOW CAN I FORM A GROUP WITH PEOPLE WHO ARE SIMILAR TO ME?

If you'd like to form a group with a certain affinity (like couples, singles, women, men, etc.), let us know by writing this on your host commitment form. We encourage the new groups to invite your own friends that you enjoy hanging out with.

I AM CURRENTLY IN A SMALL GROUP.

Do I have to leave it if I am going to host a new Limitless group? No. Although some members of existing small groups will choose to take a 6 week vacation from their group in order to host a new one, others will simply meet on a different night and be part of two group. Current groups will also join this journey as a group. Do what feels comfortable.

WHAT DO I DO WITH THE NEW GROUP THAT HAS FORMED?

As the host, we are asking that you offer a way to meet with this new group for 6 short weeks. We ask that you encourage the members to watch the video each week and help the group lead itself. We also hope that you will pray for this new group and each of the members individually. At the end of the six weeks we would hope that by rotating leadership on occasion and challenging someone to step up and lead, 70 to 80% of the new groups will continue.

I WILL BE OUT OF TOWN DURING ONE OF THE WEEKS OF THE SERIES. ANY IDEAS?

Sure, on the night you will miss the group, simply plan on having others host and facilitate the evening.

AFTER THE LIMITLESS STUDY IS OVER, CAN I GO BACK WITH MY OLD GROUP?

Some people decide to go back to their old group and other people decide to stay with the new group that formed with their friends and neighbors. You can do which ever you feel God is leading you to do. Do not feel pressured to stay but prepare to leave well.

WILL I BE ASKED TO CONTINUE HOSTING THIS GROUP AFTER THE SIX WEEK SERIES?

We are SO grateful for your gift of 6 weeks. When your commitment is over, each host will personally decide what their role will be with the group of friends that began in their home. It is our hope that some hosts will choose to continue with their new group. If that's not your plan, we hope you will help the group raise up a new host and that you will come alongside them and mentor them so that they have a better chance of being successful.

I LIVE OUT OF THE AREA. SHOULD WE STILL CONSIDER BEING A HOST HOME?

Yes! If you live out of the area we would still love to support you as a host. We would encourage you to pray about which neighbors and friends you could invite to join you for 6 weeks.

HOW SHOULD WE HANDLE CHILDCARE?

Ultimately each host will decide how they will address the issue of childcare. At Second we provide children's activities on Sunday and Wednesday nights so that groups can drop their kids off at the church. Some groups ask the members to find their own babysitters and attend the group by themselves with the children left at home with the sitter. Other groups put the children together in a bonus room at the host home and all the members pitch in to pay a sitter or two to care for them. Groups can also swap child-care with another group they know who meets on another night. There are many creative solutions, and it is a great idea to address these up front with the people you are inviting.

READY TO HOST?

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