



Pervasive Hope Starts With Me.

WEEK OF YOUR FIRST MEETING

COMMUNICATE |

A few days before your meeting, get in touch with the people who have expressed interest in your group. You can use the phone, text, e-mail, social media, or whatever works best for the context and demographics. For the first meeting use a few different means to communicate; then you'll be able to figure out what works best for each person.

When you get ahold of each person, be sure to remind everyone when and where the group will be meeting. Make sure to give them your phone number in case someone gets lost. On that note, be sure your phone is turned on and the ringer is turned up before the group starts. You don't want anyone to miss the meeting because they couldn't get in touch with you at the last minute.

FOOD |

Food seems like it has the magical ability to help break the ice and help people open up. So begin to think through some snacks you can set out and have ready.

For the first group meeting we want people to start getting to know one another before we even dive into our first session. We all know that nothing creates an opportunity to hang out and have some good conversation like food. The truth is, even strangers sitting around a table full of food are much more relaxed and willing to engage in conversation.

We recommend the three Cs: chips, cookies, and caffeine.

ENVIRONMENT |

People are more likely to stick around if they feel comfortable. We want to make sure we create an environment that's warm and welcoming to everyone. So begin to think what type of chairs you may need for your group time. Do you need to move some stuff around to make things more comfortable? Is there enough lighting?

PRAYER |

Prayer is the easiest thing to overlook during the frantic preparation process, but it's also one of the most vital. We don't want our time together to just be a social gathering. As a HOST your goal is to help create community and to help others know more about God. If we're doing that well, we'll need His help to do it.

In the days leading up to the first meeting, pray for your group. Pray that those who come would connect well and find community in your group. Pray for wisdom and discernment for yourself as the HOST. Above all, pray that God would be glorified through your time together.



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