

Starting Your New Small Group Is as Easy as Pie

OR 1 - 2 - 3

1

Decide when you'll meet. Once there's a date on the calendar, people can start getting excited. Don't worry about finding the perfect date. Just do your best to land on a first meeting time that works for as many people as possible.

2

Activate your new group online. Head to saddleback.com/news/smallgroup to set your group up, unlock your group's FREE video curriculum library, and get instructions on how to use the fun elements of this kit to begin building relationships and making memories. We've put together a special, two-week Quick Start study to help groups like yours begin with a clear picture of God's design for small groups. We encourage you to choose this as your first study. If you've already registered your group, you can access this curriculum by going to saddleback.com/startmygroup

3

Chat with us. If you haven't already, you'll soon be hearing from a Small Groups Pastor and/or your Community Leader. Need ideas? Hit a roadblock? Is something going on in your group you need help thinking through? They are here to offer personal assistance along the way, so be sure to get back to them to begin building a relationship that will inspire and encourage you in this new adventure.



Want to chat now? Email us at smallgroups@saddleback.com

Checklist for Your First Group

Before Gathering

- Assemble the squad! Invite others to join your group with the invite cards provided.
- Send 2 reminders with address and time: about 1 week out and 2 days prior.
- If any of your guests have kids, decide if there will be childcare, or if kids are welcome to join.
- Make sure the video works in the space where you'll be gathering.
- Prepare or purchase tasty treats.

Day of Gathering

- Make sure there are enough seats for everyone.
- Turn on some music. Create a fun and welcoming atmosphere.
- Set out name tags, markers, snacks, and drinks.

During the Gathering

Here's an idea for how you can break up your gathering. There are no requirements for time; this is just a sample of what your meeting may look like. Remember to be flexible — every time you gather may look different! For your first week, you'll want to pass out the snack sign-up sheet.

Arrival, Mingling + Snacks 15 minutes

Welcome, Introduce Yourself + Pray 5 minutes

Ice Breaker/Group Introductions 20 minutes

Share Guidelines for Group 10 minutes

Video + Discussion 35 minutes

Prayer Requests + Prayer 5 minutes

After the Meeting

- Let everyone know you had fun! Email the group to celebrate your first week and preview the next week's gathering.
- Help everyone feel at home. If anyone is new, reach out to them individually and offer to answer their questions.
- Follow up on any prayer requests.