

House2House Leader & Host Training

Calvary Meridian Mission and Vision

Mission

To make committed followers of Jesus Christ.

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen. –Matthew 28:19-20

Vision

Connect

We *connect* people with God in our main church services and special events.

You can start joining us weekly at the church service.

Grow

We *grow* together in fellowship through our House2House small groups.

You can join a House2House group and *grow* alongside other believers.

Reach

We *reach* out to others by sharing our faith and serving our King Jesus.

You can *reach* others for Christ by using your gifts to serve.

House2House Mission

House2House Ministry within the context of the greater church Mission and Vision

We see the *Connect, Grow, Reach* Vision of Calvary Meridian as a process for how the church will disciple the people within the body. They *connect* with God through the worship, prayer, and teaching of the word at the main church service and various special events. They *grow* in their commitment to Jesus by entering into Christian community in a House2House small group where they enjoy the spiritual encouragement, accountability, and the comradery of Christian fellowship. They *reach* others as they learn to use their gifts in service to others and sharing their faith.

Consequently, the House2House Ministry is a major and vital part of our discipleship process. That means that you, as H2H Leaders and Hosts, are a major and vital part of our discipleship plan.

House2House Ministry Mission

The mission is FELLOWSHIP. We often downplay the meaning of the word fellowship, using it to describe the time that believers gather. In fact, fellowship in the Christian life is the relationship between believers where meaningful **spiritual conversations** occur, where **corporate worship** takes place, and where each believer exercises their **spiritual gifts** in ministry towards one another, encouraging spiritual growth in one another. The mission of the H2H ministry is to provide and facilitate this type of Christian fellowship.

Leaders and Hosts: Fostering a Good Ministry Relationship and Building Fellowship

Before the Season Begins

The group leader and host(s) should schedule a meeting before the H2H Season beginning where they can discuss a couple of topics.

- **Expectations.** It is important to let one another know the expectations you each have before you get started. Miscommunication about what each party expects from their partnership can sour the relationship and hinder the ministry.
- **Host's ground rules.** Inviting people into your home can create uncomfortable situations. The host(s) should share some ground rules with the leader about the rules of the house. This is especially important when the group will include children. The leader can help keep a watchful eye for group members or their kids who stray from the agreed-upon use of the host's home.
- **Pray.** The leader and host(s) are being paired together in ministry. In any ministry, it is important to seek the Lord for vision, wisdom, and strength to fulfill the ministry ahead.

The First Meeting

Here are a few things that you may want to do during your first meeting.

- **Acknowledge small group pitfalls.** Spend some time talking to the group about some of the pitfalls that can make small group time uncomfortable and less effective. Share what they are and how you plan on managing the group time to avoid them.

- Lay the ground rules. Share the expectations that you as the leader have for what will happen in the group time and what they can do to ensure that the meeting accomplishes its purpose and starts and ends on time.
- Explain how the House2House Group meetings will proceed. Give a rough schedule or itinerary for the flow of the meetings.
- Spend some time during the discussion going over the “get to know you” questions.

The Typical Meeting

The typical House2House meeting will be comprised of several elements.

- Breaking of bread. Share a meal. Eating together provides a great opportunity to build fellowship.
- Worship. Sometimes the group has someone who can lead the group in worship. If not, there are other ways to worship within the small group. Singing along with a recording. You could even sing a simple song a capella.
- Discussion. This is the portion of the meeting where the leader facilitates a discussion based on the sermon-based questions that are provided each week.
- Prayer. Praying together and for one another is an important part of building fellowship. This will allow people to share the things that concern them and give everyone in the group the opportunity to come alongside them in prayer. Doing this consistently will allow the group to observe how God is working in one another’s lives through answered prayer.

Group Leader Expectations

- Personal Spiritual Growth
 - Group leaders should be maintaining a devotional life and growing in their walk with Jesus.
 - Group leaders should be attending the church service regularly.
- Pray for their group members daily.
- Understand their role in Calvary Meridian’s Mission & Vision.
- Invite people to join their group.
 - There is a greater likelihood that people will join a group if invited.
- Stay in contact with their group members.
- Be prepared for their meetings.
- Efficiently manage the schedule and pace of the group meetings
 - It is important that we respect the group members' time.
 - They may have good reasons to need to start and end on time.
 - Following a basic schedule for each meeting will also ensure that the group members have enough opportunity to engage in the biblical discussion.
 - Members may be excited to share what God has been teaching them as they worked on the weekly questions.
 - Managing the pace of the meeting will require bringing the group back on topic when it starts heading down a rabbit trail.
- Mentor a potential leader.
 - Leaders should keep an eye out for potential group leaders.
 - Provide potential leader’s information to the H2H overseer.

- Plan fellowship or ministry opportunities outside of the regular small group meetings.

Group Host Expectations

- Personal Spiritual Growth
 - Group hosts should be maintaining a devotional life and growing in their walk with Jesus.
 - Group hosts should be attending the church service regularly.
- Pray for their group members daily.
- Understand their role in Calvary Meridian's Mission & Vision
- Provide a comfortable and welcoming environment for their guests.
- Help the group leader establish a meal/menu plan for upcoming meetings.

The Weekly Meeting

Sample Itinerary

- Welcome group members
- Share a meal
- Worship
- Group Discussion
- Group Prayer
- Close the meeting

The Meal

The Leader and Host should work together to establish a meal plan and method for involving the group members.

Worship

Not every group will have someone capable of leading worship. Some alternatives to having a worship leader are singing along with a recording or singing acapella.

Group Discussion

- Sermon Based Groups
 - Question sheets will be provided to the church body each week before the Sunday sermon.
 - The question sheets will contain three types of questions:
 - Get-to-know-me questions.
 - These will be designed to help people share a little about their life and who they are.
 - Into-the-Bible questions
 - These questions will be designed to help people deepen their knowledge of the scriptures and to be comfortable navigating their way through the books of the Bible.
 - Application questions

- These questions are designed to help people learn how to apply the lessons from the passage into their daily lives and walk more biblically.
- Topic Based Groups
 - Leaders who are leading a topic-based group will use the materials that is the basis for their topic to create the discussion materials for their groups.

Group Prayer

We would like to make sure that prayer together is an important element of the weekly meeting. Here are some thoughts for your group prayer time:

- Ask each member for his/her prayer requests.
- Have the whole group write down one another's prayer requests and challenge them to be in prayer for their groupmates throughout the week.
- Spend some time praying for one another.
- The leader should keep track of each member's prayer requests and revisit them, asking how God is working in their circumstances.
 - This would be a great way to encourage your group to be consistent in prayer when they get to see real-time examples of God answering prayer.
- Adopt a church outreach and pray for them each week.

Groups with Children

- During the first meeting, when the leader is spending some time establishing some ground rules for the group, he/she should take some time to let parents know that they need to keep an eye on their kids and help them behave according to the host's house rules.
- Organize a rotating childcare schedule.
- The children should participate with the rest of the group during the meal/fellowship time and the worship time, then break off into a separate space for their lesson while the adult's discussion time takes place.
- A lesson plan will be provided each week for the kids' lesson time. It will include a lesson, games, and activities.

The Holy Spirit is a Group Member

What That Means for the Group Leader and Host

Having a plan and being prepared are important and biblical elements of ministry, but we must not think that our planning and preparedness are enough to accomplish the work that God is setting before us. Ministry is a spiritual work and therefore relies upon the power of the Holy Spirit working in and through those who serve God. Leaders and Hosts should be seeking God, asking Him to fill them with His Spirit so that He will work in and through them to serve and minister to His people. We must also be aware that He may choose to work among us through the spiritual gifts as described in His word (1 Corinthians 12 – 14).

Spiritual Gifts

Small Groups can be an appropriate setting for the exercise of spiritual gifts and the moving of the Holy Spirit among His people. The Bible teaches that God will move among His people through spiritual gifting to edify and encourage the church or to establish His word. Here are some biblical guidelines that direct the use of spiritual gift in the church.

- They are given for the profit of all (1 Corinthians 12:7).
- They are diverse yet meant to edify the whole body (1 Corinthians 12:8-30, Romans 12:4-8).
- They are to be used in love for the body of Christ (1 Corinthians 13).
- They are meant to edify, exhort, and comfort (1 Corinthians 14: 3, 12, 26).
- They are to be used in an orderly fashion (1 Corinthians 14:32 & 33, 40).
- The exercise of spiritual gifts is subject to the individual who is being gifted (1 Corinthians 14:32).
- They are given by the will of God, not worked up by the efforts and emotions of man (Hebrews 2:4).

Encouraging Personal Growth

Mentor Prospective Group Leaders

One of the expectations of a group leader is to be watchful for people who show potential for being a good group leader. Included in the packet is a questionnaire that you can use to evaluate prospective group leaders.

GROW to REACH: The On-Ramp to Serving

One of the discipleship goals of the House2House ministry is to serve as an “on-ramp” to serving in a ministry. We hope that the growth that people are experiencing in their House2House group will result in a desire to serve God and His people. Here are some ideas for how you could use some of your group time to encourage people to take a step of faith and begin using their gifts to serve.

- Have members who are serving in a ministry share how they first started serving in a ministry as well as their experiences of how serving has been a blessing.
- Have a several “Serve Here” packets with you at your group meetings. The “Serve Here” packet has everything that they need to apply to serve in a ministry at Calvary Meridian.
- As a leader, be up-front about how helping people get started serving God is a part of the mission of the House2House small group ministry.
- Organize a group outing to serve in a church ministry, or local outreach (Boise Rescue Mission, Greeter Team at church, bake goodies and serve them with the Hospitality Team, etc.).