

HOSTING HELPS (FAQ)

WHAT DO WE DO ON THE FIRST NIGHT OF OUR GROUP?

If you are starting a new group or you have new members, there will be at least a few people with some “jitters”—maybe even you! That’s okay and to be expected. Here are a few steps to help people feel comfortable.

- ☺ **Welcome Your Group:** A small visual cue on your front door that says, “Come In,” helps people know they are expected. Next, think through where you’ll meet and how to best form a circle with chairs. It’s a good idea to have nametags so no one feels out of place.
- ☺ **Brew Coffee or Make Cookies:** It’s always nice to have drinks and snacks to nibble on. You might also want background music on as people arrive.
- ☺ **Icebreaker:** At the start of a new group, it’s great to have a fun game or activity to help people laugh a little and feel more comfortable before you launch into the study guide. Google “Icebreaker Activities” for inspiration and find one to try!

HOW LONG SHOULD WE MEET? Most groups will meet weekly for an hour and a half. Whatever time you decide to meet, make sure to start and end promptly—it makes it easier for people to commit when they know the time frame.

WHERE DO WE FIND NEW MEMBERS FOR OUR GROUP?

The most effective way is through a personal invitation. Brainstorm a list of people from work, church, your neighborhood, and your children’s school. Some of the best conversations happen in smaller circles. Don’t panic if your group starts out with just a few people.

CAN I JUST MEET WITH A FEW FRIENDS TO DO THIS STUDY?

Absolutely! You are welcome to host your own small gathering—no permission needed. This guide has all you need to have a great conversation. One of the best ways to do this study is not with a full house but with a few friends.

HOW DO WE ACCESS THE VIDEOS? The videos are available to stream or download for free at www.chaseoaks.org/happyplace. Think through how you can best watch them together whether it’s through a smart TV or streaming device, a computer, or a phone. Each video is about 8-10 minutes long.

HOW DO WE HANDLE CHILDCARE? Each campus offers an onsite childcare option. For a small fee, parents can drop their children off, go to a group, and come back to pick them up. Other options include bringing in a sitter to watch the children while the adults meet or leave the children with a sitter in one home and meet in another home close by. Brainstorm with your group what will work best for everyone.