



# Bayside Group Host Guide

**Spring 2025**

For Midsize Group Hosts





## Midsize Group Meetings

For Small group environments in classrooms and homes

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### Your Role as Group Host

We want groups to be environments where people experience biblical community and grow into a deeper relationship with God our Father. As a group host your goal is to enable spiritual growth in each participant. You support the Midsize Group Leader/Emcee in the room, but you are also in partnership with the Holy Spirit, who alone can bring about transformation in a human heart.

Gaining wisdom is more important than simply acquiring knowledge, and growing in holiness is an even higher aspiration. While teaching is focused on understanding and knowledge, spiritual growth and heart change comes by personal faith experience as the reality of scripture comes to life in our own hearts. Therefore the discussion time is not to debate ideas, but more of sharing honest reflections on the passages and topics the sermons bring up.

Qualities that help to facilitate thriving discussion are not so much knowledge based, but are more relationally based.

- **Patience and trust** help members to engage in sharing honest experiences with God and His Word. You may need to lead by example, sharing your own experiences with the Word, rather than simply proclaiming abstract truths.
- **Listen well** for what might actually be in the minds and hearts of the participants. Careful attention to words and body language may give you clues to the next question that might be helpful.
- **Be accepting of different spiritual journeys and experiences.** People will have different reactions to what resonates with them, and there may be cultural differences. Be open to a lack of closure; some things may be brought up that cannot be immediately resolved, but can be held in prayer. Permit people to grow at their own pace. Let people know that they can “opt-out” or pass if any question makes them feel uncomfortable.



## Preparation

1. Your Ministry Leader will have the venue selected. You may be asked to come early to help with setting up the seating.
2. We provide helpful tools each week at Equip.mybayside.church, there will be material that supports the week's topic and lots of questions for discussion.
3. Consider carefully each week what you might share that impacted you from the weekend message, remaining mindful of how your own sharing helps to establish trust in the group as the intent of the sharing portion of the meeting.
4. The Ministry Leader or Emcee for your Midsize group will start the meeting with a summary, and then they will turn it over to you as the host to cover the questions you've selected for your group.

## General Outline of Each Midsize Group Meeting

### Welcome - Room Leader

- Opening Prayer - Welcome - introductions
- Worship Moment (2-10 Minutes)
- Opening Instructions or Announcements

### Study & Discussion - Group Hosts

Here is where your preparation comes in. Focus on what inspires you to grow and share first to be an example.

Select 4-5 of the provided questions. If you have a talkative or large group, you may only be able to get to 1-2 questions, but if you have a more reserved group, you may need more questions. Listen well and focus on follow-up questions that inspire growth.

Consider any parallel passages or additional passages related to the weekend message that were not used in the sermon. This can add depth to the conversation and reinforce why we meet as a follow-up to the sermon.

Select 1-2 application-type questions to help members consider how to grow in "love and good deeds." Obedience and application to God's Word is key to spiritual maturity. You might also pair up people to encourage each other in their personal application for the week ahead.



## Wind down and Closing prayer - Room Leader

Each week, we encourage members to take part in other areas of Bayside they might not have experienced yet. For Spring 2025, we suggest the following schedule, with special opportunities on specific weekends:

<b>Week of:</b>	<b>Your next steps:</b>	
1. February 2	Growth Track	
2. February 9	Freedom Groups	
3. February 16	Baptism	Coming up this weekend
4. February 23	Possible next groups	First Steps & Discipleship
5. March 2	Announce: no group next week- plan something fun	
6. March 9	Church Buildings closed - No Groups this week	
7. March 16	Share about Serve week April 6th and settle your service project plans.	
8. March 23	Discipleship Groups	Select from a book list to do next together
9. March 30	Freedom	Have a Freedom Testimony ready
10. April 6	Serve Week	
11. April 13	Does everyone have a place to be for Easter? Announce Celebration Wk.	
12. April 20	EASTER - Church Buildings closed - no groups this week	
13. April 27	Celebration Week!	

Closing Prayer can be brief or sent back to the tables depending on time. You may want to provide index cards for exchanging prayer requests.

This should be a time for us to lift up one another in prayer, focusing on spiritual growth in the areas we're discussing. Initially, the group leader may model brief prayers, but encourage members to participate in conversational group prayer.

