**Tips to help with Scheduling**

Sometimes the hardest part about being involved in a small group is finding the time to meet regularly. We believe that regular, scheduled meeting times provide structure and accountability to everyone in the group. You are all committed to work together to find the time to grow in your faith and in your relationships with one another. That is why we have designed Community Groups to be SMALL, SIMPLE, AND FLEXIBLE. We know everyone has hectic schedules and smaller groups allow you to accommodate most everyone each week. We recommend that you keep your schedule flexible and your locations for meetings interesting.

Your Community 101 Playbook goes over the basic questions about scheduling your group meetings. Here are some additional questions to ask and some ideas on how to utilize resources for a better meeting time.

1. Is there someone in your group who you need to accommodate more because of their work schedule?

* You can help to ease their anxiety about having to be ‘accommodated’ by looking at the schedule for the next two months and deciding on days to meet in advance. This way everyone is in agreement with the times and the ‘accommodated’ member is at ease knowing they can make the meetings.

1. How much time do we think we will need to eat, hang out, discuss and pray?

* Have realistic expectations about how long you will meet. We recommend starting with an hour and a half and adjusting from there.

1. How often should we schedule a family event night where we meet somewhere with entertainment?

* The most important thing is to schedule something fun at least every eight weeks. Family outings, local events, or just having a simple barbeque will help to build unity and allow everyone to relax for the night.

1. Mix up your setting. For instance have guys meet one time, then women, than all together.

**Ideas for scheduling meetings:**

1. Sunday after church.
2. Breakfast meetings during the week or weekends.
3. Wednesday nights if you have children in Elevate or E56.
4. If you can’t meet one week, schedule a longer Friday evening gathering
5. Meet during a child’s athletic practice