

How to be a supportive Home Group member

1. What happens in Home Group stays in Home Group.

It is a precious thing to share our lives with one another – especially if we need prayer. However, this can go awry if people share this confidential information. Even if the information is not used for gossip, it still can make members reticent to talk about their challenges and other personal information. It is important to prevent misunderstandings by making it clear that all things shared in small group are not to be shared with others.

2. Everyone gets a turn.

It is important that no one in your Home Group community dominate conversation and also that everyone who wants to, gets to share their thoughts. Sometimes we want to listen in more, and that's fine too. But remember you're among friends and your contribution is just as valuable as anyone else's.

3. Help the Home Group leader manage the time.

The Home Group leader has a number of responsibilities – one of which is to end the Home Group on time. That's not always easy, so help them out! Some members need to get up early for work (or will be up with children). Some are not night owls. Some will go home and consider the night "young" and start a movie! You might have a great story to tell, but keep an eye on the time yourself. If you're getting close to that final half hour of prayer time, maybe it's something to save until another time.

4. Be committed

It is a huge encouragement to your group when you're there. It supports the leader who has put in the time to prepare the study. It also serves your soul as you take time in the midweek to listen, consider and apply God's Word. But, if you're not going to be there – let your leaders know, as they plan for you being there.

5. Be ready to hear God speak

At the heart of our Home Groups is God's Word which in the middle of busy week can revive the soul, give comfort to the weary and give joy to the downhearted. It is for you – some come expectant, for your God speaks to you through the pages of Scripture. Enjoy that.