

Hub Leadership Gatherings

What is the goal? The primary goal is to know each other well enough to pray for each other on the spot. But other purposes that support or compliment that primary goal are:

- To regather and relaunch leaders after the breaks in December and July
- To take stock of both the past semester as well as the one that's beginning
- To check in and share how we are doing—both personally and ministerially
- To honor and encourage each other
- To model to our group leaders what a healthy family meal rhythm looks like

When should we schedule them? We ask every male and female hub leader to work together and make a plan to gather the leaders in their hub at the beginning of each semester—once in August and once in January, for a total of two hub leadership gatherings a year.

Who should we invite? Hub leaders should invite both primary and assistant community group leaders, as well as any apprentices or other potential/future leaders that both the hub leaders and respective group leaders agree should be invited. When we include potential/future leaders in spaces like a hub gathering, we give them a view into Frontline's leadership culture, which often surprises them with its emphasis on vulnerable sharing and prayer, and using ministry to get people done instead of the other way around. Assure potential/future leaders that attendance does not equal commitment.

What are the logistics? Sometimes a community director has funds set aside to help defray the cost of preparing the meal. Other times, the hub leaders coordinate a potluck instead of preparing the whole meal themselves. Still others opt for a later start time and provide drinks and dessert instead of a full meal. Community group leaders should be encouraged to secure childcare for themselves so they can focus on sharing and prayer without interruption. Hub leadership gatherings typically last two to two-and-a-half hours, counting: informal time connecting, eating together, checking in and sharing, and prayer.

What should be the format? Hub leadership gatherings are usually best hosted in a home—either a hub leader's home, or if that's not ideal or available, one of the community group leaders' homes. Sometimes due to space constraints, or other limitations, hub leaders will use their congregation's building.

Every community group leader should have the opportunity to check in. Future/prospective leaders can listen in, and don't have to necessarily check in. If there are too many people for every individual to share, hub leaders can ask married leaders to designate one person to share on behalf of their household. Alternately, leaders can be invited to share and check in on behalf of the whole leadership team of their respective community group, and then the floor can be opened up for anyone else who would like to check in or share something that is burdening them individually.

Hub leaders can update leaders on any upcoming church-wide or congregation-specific strategic initiatives, or make general comments about hub-wide patterns of strength or weakness they've observed in the past semester as it relates to engaging in the three rhythms: family meal, discipleship groups, and missional gatherings.

However, since the primary goal is to listen to and know each other well enough to pray for each other on the spot, make sure plenty of time is left for prayer. Hub leaders should remain sensitive to the Spirit's leading, and draw out or highlight anyone they feel needs the attention or prayers of the group. Tears, strong emotions, weariness, or discouragement are often (but not always) a clue for where to focus attention. You can't do this for everyone in attendance due to time constraints, but as you feel prompted, invite at least one or two people to sit in a chair placed in the center of the room, and facilitate a time of prophetic prayer on their behalf. (Learn more about how to facilitate a time of prophetic prayer at frontlinechurch.com/propheticprayer.)

