

Tips for fellowship leaders – what I have seen work and is also Biblically sound

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Some of these are “hard knock” lessons of my own, some I have seen work well at multiple fellowships. Hope they help you also. Pray over them and see if some or all may apply.

- **“Keep It Stupidly Simple”** – the sanitized K.I.S.S. rule ☺; meaning, keep events simple and minimally time- and money-consuming.

- **Always make sure that whatever you do not only feeds and blesses your fellowship, but also blesses and feeds you, the leaders as well.** This helps to avoid burnout in addition to making sure you are also being taken care of spiritually as well.

- **Create the program around your people; do not force people into a program.** It’s about the people, not the program. Big events do not necessarily mean successful fellowships.

- **Consider different meeting formats each week to create variety and also meet need.** Maybe one week you do Bible study. Another week can be a fellowship meal at an apartment with praise time. Another week can be a prayer meeting for specific needs. Maybe you will have a speaker come too. Whatever works easiest and minimizes stress and planning.

- **Work TOGETHER.** Make sure there are multiple leaders (at least two) and distribute the work so that it is not an excessive burden for anyone.

- **Remember that your primary mission in school is to steward your time to be the best student God has called you to be.** Do not let your calling to lead your fellowship outweigh your responsibilities as a student, but do not let your responsibilities as a student prevent you from fulfilling your calling as a leader. Make sure you are well-balanced.

- **Make sure you have accountability – this is the greatest area of vulnerability.** Please make sure you are in a truly Bible-believing church with accountable leaders there. Make sure you keep each other accountable. Pray for and look for mentors who will help shape you and keep you accountable. Make sure Dr. Jeeji and I stay in touch with you so that we can help with that as well.

- In the same vein, **make sure you are keeping your daily spiritual disciplines;** medical school does not mean you abandon them altogether – in fact you must commit even more to them. These include but are DEFINITELY not limited to:
 - pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17)
 - stay in the Word (daily study and meditation) (Joshua 1:8)
 - praise (1 Thessalonians 5:16)
 - stay in fellowship with fellow believers in an intentional way (Hebrews 10:24-25)

- I strongly suggest that leaders **create a group mission statement** – the “what” you will do this year.

Example: *Beacon Christian Community Health Center’s mission is to honor God by caring for the physical, mental and spiritual health of our community.*

Sample: *XYZ Christian Fellowship will seek to understand the implications of our Christian faith and our future work as doctors this year, and demonstrate them thorough our actions.*

- Also, **Consider a group vision statement** – the “why” you do what you do year after year.

Example: *(At Beacon)We believe that whole-person, relationship-based health care has the power to heal people, transform communities, and ultimately change the spirit of America.*

Sample: *XYZ Christian Fellowship believes that God-honoring fellowship will not only strengthen and encourage students in their faith for their future, but also transform the culture of our campus and our community.*