

# Tips on How to Have a Great Gathering

Decide what type of gathering you want to host before doing anything else—this will help you decide who to invite, what to buy, and what to prepare.

Only invite as many people as you can manage. When sending out invitations, assume everyone is going to say yes instead of inviting tons of people and hoping only a set amount can make it. You can always send out more invitations later. Asking for an RSVP is a great way to help you plan food, drinks, and party events.

Let people know what to expect. Is it indoors or outdoors? Should they bring food? What time does it start (and end)?

Make things easy by simplifying. When in doubt, narrow choices, including menu and décor. Too many options can make you feel overwhelmed.

Spice up the guest list. Invite a variety of guests with different backgrounds and ages.

Set the mood with music.

Greet your guests individually as they arrive. Set the tone with a warm greeting, and introduce them to other guests.

Enlist some help. Don't be afraid to ask a guest to help prepare a dish or refill beverages. When someone brings something or lends a hand, they feel a part of things!

Make name tags available. Trying to remember names is as hard and awkward for others as it is for you.

Keep calm, cool, and collected. Drinks will spill, conversation may lag, and food may run out. That's okay. Just continue to make your guests feel welcome.

Pray and enjoy! Let God open doors to deeper conversations and ask him for the courage to walk through!

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