



A HOUSE PARTY WITH A POWERFUL PURPOSE!



Dear partner and friend, thank you for your interest in hosting a house party. Your home will become a gateway to share your heart and inspire guests to look beyond your walls to how all of us can change the world for people in need. Everyone makes choices from the options they are exposed to, and your interest in sharing about this work you believe in could open more connections and involvement from others than you might ever imagine. I encourage you to step out and watch what God will do!

Together we are multiplying life changes in Africa and where we live here! We all want to make a difference in the world—especially when we can help those less fortunate than we are—but finding the right channel to help in a meaningful and empowering way is not easy for many. Your interest and care can make a life-changing difference both near and far.

On behalf of the dozens, hundreds, or even thousands of lives who will be impacted due to your willingness to share their stories—thank you! The most memorable house parties aren't necessarily the ones with a detailed presentation or the best spread but those that simply have the heart to connect people with one another and with a greater cause. So with this in mind, let's empower more lives and learn more about how to party with a purpose!

Don Rogers
ELI Founder/CVO

Purpose of a House Party

1. To invite family and friends (old and new) to learn about this important cause
2. To invite guests to make a difference in bringing hope to others: guests will be asked to participate in the cause by connecting with ELI through participation, prayer, and/or support
3. To educate guests on how people worldwide are suffering due to a lack of resources
4. To inspire guests to be a part of the solution with a “call to action”—a chance to change the world for an orphan or family in Africa
5. To build community: bringing people together for a shared experience and shared action creates a community amongst them and with you as their host
6. To grow as a champion of the cause: as a result of hosting a house party, our goal is for you to grow in your dependence on the Lord and your understanding of the cause

For any questions or to share your ideas, please contact christina@empoweringlives.org

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HOW TO HOST A HOUSE PARTY GUIDE



Your house party will center around a story you can share that includes sharing your own heart about your concern for the poor and your excitement to be a part of the solution. If you need help articulating your story, someone from Empowering Lives will be happy to help you. You can also use the “Sharing Your Story” brainstorming questions below. Details about ELI may flow naturally out of your story. Still, the point of the event is not to create a sales pitch for ELI; instead, it is to highlight how the connection to this cause has impacted/blessed your own life and invite your peers to have a similar experience.

You will want to design your format to encourage conversation, foster interaction between guests, and create an experience that connects guests to the cause. Keep this in mind when determining your space needs. (For example, round tables will encourage more interaction than chairs in a row.) If you cannot create an experience in your own home, consider what other options you may have access to.

Keep the timeline limited, and be sure you honor the participants by starting and ending on time (usually no more than 2 hours total for the event). ELI will provide you with materials you can download and share, as well as links to videos and other relevant content. Hard copies of recent newsletters can be mailed to you upon request.

House parties come in all shapes and sizes. Be creative and design an event that fits the style of your community. You don’t need to spend a lot of money to have a successful small gathering; providing refreshments can be simple (e.g. coffee and donuts) or more elaborate.



Whom should I invite?

These kinds of unique events are small, intimate gatherings with your peers. We recommend hosting a gathering that would foster small-group and collective conversation where everyone can feel involved. This might mean 5 people or 30 people. Invite roughly 2-3 times the number of people you would like to attend.

Consider the following questions when building your guest list:

1. Who is in your natural sphere of influence and might share an interest in the cause and hearing your story of connection? (e.g. someone from your neighborhood, work, church, friends, family, clubs, associations)
2. Who do you know is already connected to the cause but not necessarily ELI?
3. Whom have you met through your own connection to the cause?

Sample Party Timeline

(sections with an asterisk are explained in more detail below)



6:30 Guests arrive

- Leave the first 15-20 minutes for arriving, socializing, eating, looking at any displays or decorations, and/or participating in an icebreaker* of some kind. (This also leaves time for people arriving late.)

6:45 Party starts

- Welcome everyone and share the reason you are hosting the event. Provide a brief introduction* and outline of how the night will go.
- Serve dinner or desserts.

7:15 Share, Answer, Interact, Inspire

- Share your story* from your heart about your discovery or struggle in knowing when and how to help others in need in the world. Then share a story from the ministry that has impacted you or represents the power of a person's change from poverty to empowerment. (30 minutes)
- Share about the virtual trip you just participated in. (5 minutes)
- Share the vision of ELI and why you are passionate about effective solutions to poverty and spiritual darkness in East Africa. (10 minutes)
- Share your testimony: what does it mean to you to be empowered? (5 Minutes)
- Answer any questions your guests may have. (5 minutes)
- Share a Call to Action*. (5 minutes and optional)

8:15 End with a bang

- Close in prayer. Thank your guests and make any "next steps" clear.



Ice Breaker Idea

People who come to a party usually expect something fun. Here's an idea that is fun and also thought-provoking. It sets the tone for the evening right off the bat.

When your guests arrive, they each pick a paper out of a cup. The paper reads one of three things: "Bottom," "Middle," or "Top." Set out a display of snacks with these same labels clearly marked so your guests can see them as they move toward the food area.

On the "Bottom" table or area place dixie cups that have only one pretzel and two goldfish inside. The "Bottom" sign also says, "One helping please." In the "Middle" area set out a larger selection but nothing over the top (e.g. bread with cream cheese). In the "Top" area have snacks like cream cheese, fruit, lemon cake, and other very tasty items that the others would likely envy.

The idea is to quickly give them the feeling of being rich or poor—at the luck of the draw, similar to how people do not choose where they are born. Some have much while others have little. This can lead to a brief discussion about how they felt about having much or little. ELI can help you with some actual facts about world poverty and then with how ELI addresses these challenges in lasting, holistic ways.

Finally, make sure everyone knows they have been released from their assigned "labels" and can now enjoy all the snacks as they also keep in mind what they just experienced.

Introduction Sample Script

"I just traveled to Africa, and I did it virtually with an organization that has become one of my favorites for various reasons. I can't wait to unpack this evening. I wanted to reach out to each of you and thought, *Why not share this way instead of trying to catch you on the phone or in between other things!*" Then continue with the outline of how the evening will go.





Sharing Your Story

Tell your story! Do not underestimate the power of telling your story about this cause. You can share how you first connected with ELI and your passion for empowering the poor. People are genuinely moved by personal stories. Use the questions below to help unlock your own story.

Part 1: The Problem

Consider:

What was your life like before your connection with the cause and/or organization?
When did you first become aware of the problem ELI seeks to address?

Part 2: The Plan

Consider:

How did you discover the work ELI is doing?
What aspect of ELI drew your heart or attention?

Part 3: The Solution

Consider:

How has your involvement with ELI and the cause changed you?
How has it impacted your family?
What do you think God is trying to teach you due to your connection?
How has it impacted your personal generosity?

Call to Action

People seldom take action unless they are invited or compelled to do so. A Call to Action invites people to take a life-changing step toward the cause you are sharing. Before your house party ends, it will be vital for your guests to know what to do with what they learned and how they can move forward. It's an answer to "What now?"

Feel free to reach out to us when you are preparing your event, and we'll help you create a wonderful and memorable gathering with Calls to Action that your friends can participate in and that make your heart smile. We can also share the most updated events/engagement opportunities we have at the time so you can share those at your party.





Pre- and Post-Event Timeline

While you will be the host and the focus of the event will be on your story, if you would like someone from ELI to attend, please contact us as early as possible in your event planning process so we can get it on our calendar.

4-6 weeks before the event:


Ideally, invitations should be sent at least six weeks before the event, including sending mass emails and tracking RSVPs. At the latest they could be sent one month before the event. In the invitation be sure to include why you're inviting them and give a brief overview of the event. You may consider sharing who else is on the guest list, especially if someone they already know or someone you would like them to meet will be there to encourage their attendance.

- *Should I send paper or email invites?* Both are effective and should be considered. Paper invitations look great and give guests the feeling of an exclusive event, but email invites are more modern, cost-effective, time-saving, and easier to customize. Evite is an easy social-planning website for creating, sending, and managing online invitations. You can learn more at www.evite.com.
- *What about social media instead of or in addition to invitations?* You can use online tools such as Facebook. To use your personal Facebook profile, create a Facebook event invitation and invite your Facebook friends on there. This invitation will be the home base for getting people interested in attending your party.
- *How do I collect responses?* Having one point of contact will make the process easier, but you can provide multiple means. It works well to use one email address and one phone number, providing various ways for your guests to RSVP.

Consider meeting with a staff member from ELI to brainstorm ways to make your event experiential, determine the Call to Action you will present, figure out how to receive donations (if necessary), and obtain any additional tools you need to feel confident.

2 weeks before the event:

Repeat the invitation with a phone call (it may take 2-3 invites before a commitment is received) to those who have not responded. To those who have responded, send a reminder that the event is coming up in two weeks.





1 week before the event:

To those who have not responded, extend a final phone call, text, or email invitation, depending on how you know this person prefers to communicate.

To those who have responded, send a reminder that the event is coming up in one week.

1 day before the event:

Send a final reminder including time and location to everyone who has committed to attending. If you will be serving food, let them know that as well. For example, "Coffee and donuts will be available," or "Lunch will be served at noon."

Share contact information for all guests with ELI so we can follow up and thank them for their attendance and participation, regardless of if they make a gift or not.

1-10 days after the event:

Commit to following up with your guests! Within a week to ten days following your event, send each guest a thank-you letter, card, or email. To take it one step further you can even call and thank those who attended and gave.

Tips for Making Your House Party GREAT

- The focus for the evening is to educate, inspire, and invite others to resonate with you and the heart God has for those suffering from spiritual and physical poverty.
- Commit to hosting a meaningful gathering! Focus on your guests not the food, content, or schedule. Your party will be transformative if the relationships are prioritized.
- Commit to ending the party with a bang, not a fizzle. You can determine what type of end you want your gathering to have. We recommend ending intentionally on a high note with clear instructions so your guests know the next step(s) they can take to be involved.

Need help with your presentation or anything else?

For questions, educational resources, or consultation on your house party plan, please feel free to contact **christina@empoweringlives.org**.

