

Why Start Small?

In this lesson, we will give you advice that may surprise you. We advise you to start small. **The first reason to start small is that it is easy.**

Beginning with just you and your family make scheduling so much easier because you're picking a time that's perfect for you. You do not have to sync with anyone else's calendars.

If you're married, talk to your spouse and pick a time; if you're not married, pick the time that works best for you. There's nothing in the way of launching your HotSpot right now.

The second reason to start small is that it allows you to learn the Cross Waves Church DNA. Churches have personalities just like people! People from all types of church denominations and backgrounds are coming to Cross Waves Church, and we love that! We believe having people from a variety of backgrounds brings different perspectives when we talk about Scripture, and we believe that makes us better with all that cross pollination of all these people from different backgrounds coming together as a church. However, we do have a DNA that we work hard to maintain. In another lesson, you can see what constitutes the Cross Waves DNA.

The third reason to start small is that it gives you time to prove to yourself that you are serious in being a disciple-maker. That seriousness is measured through consistency. A lack of consistency is the biggest barrier to hosting a HotSpot. Obviously, when you are on vacation, or have a major illness, your HotSpot will not meet in your home, but you

cannot make disciples if you do not maintain a pattern of meeting regularly.

Think about what would happen if a traditional brick and mortar church held services two weeks in a row, then skipped three weeks, then held services for a week, then canceled services for two more weeks, etc. how long would people continue going to church there?

An example of starting small is the Heather and Joshua Windeler HotSpot in Grand Blanc, Michigan. They went one year as a HotSpot without intentionally inviting anyone. Every week they met as a family and watched the weekly message and discussed the questions among their family. In the second year, they started to invite people to their HotSpot. Last year, they had sixteen people that regularly met each week; baptized four people, and conducted community service projects throughout the year.

The fourth reason to start small is that it gives you time to prove to others that you are serious in being a disciple-maker. We already mentioned about proving to yourself that you are serious about being a disciple-maker, however, your friends and family are watching you to see if you're going to follow through. Is this a fad or is it a way of life for you?

I have a friend of mine that is a stockbroker. The first five years of his business, he struggled so much that he would have taken any job that paid a decent salary and would have completely left the financial business because he made so little money. His friends encouraged him, but kept their money invested with other stockbrokers.

However, in year six, people that were his good friends started to call and ask him to help invest their money. He struggled for five years barely

paying his bills, so why did his friends wait until year six to finally throw some business his way? They wanted to know if he was going to be around for the long haul. They wanted to know if he was truly committed to being a stockbroker.

We find the same principle applies when you start a HotSpot. There are people who are not against what you're doing, but they are not ready to commit until they see that you are serious about making disciples this way.

Starting small gives you time to answer the question when people ask, "Where do you go to church?" You can say, "I am part of Cross Waves Church." People may ask for more information, and you give them the time when you meet and invite them to your HotSpot. They may not accept now, but you will be surprised how many will accept in the future.

We've given you four reasons why to start small. It is easier, allows you time to learn the Cross Waves DNA, gives you an opportunity to prove to yourself, and others, that you are serious about making disciples.