HOST GUIDE

AN EVENING WITH

ABEL SPEAKS

MAY 1, 2025

HELLO & WELCOME

We're so grateful that you've chosen to host a gathering in support of Abel Speaks. This event would not be possible without people like you stepping out in faith and doing what they can with the time and talents at their disposal.

Our hope for this resource is to equip you as you plan a gathering for friends and family in your area. This is more than an event, this is an invitation to help change the stories of families around the world. We pray that this opportunity to invite your spheres of influence into the mission of Abel Speaks creates deep conversations and connections.

We've included some logistical details about planning your gathering and engaging with the technology for the event, as well as inspiration and ideas to put your own spin on things.

If you have a question that we didn't cover in this guide, please contact **Kendall@abelspeaks.org** and we will do our best to point you in the right direction.

In love,
The Abel Speaks Team

OUR MISSION & CORE CONVICTIONS

1. Every life is created by God with a plan and a purpose.
2. Comfort can always be found in Christ and community.
3. Our pain is never pointless, and joy can co-exist with suffering.
4. God knows our days and each one is a gift.
5. Through Christ, we can live with a redemptive eternal perspective and death is not the end of the story.

OUR MISSION

EMPOWERING FAMILIES (AND THEIR SUPPORT NETWORK) WHO HAVE CHOSEN TO CARRY A CHILD WITH A LIFE-LIMITING DIAGNOSIS.

EVENT VISION & IMPACT

As our ministry's impact grows globally, we want to extend the opportunity for our national and global Abel Speaks community to participate in our second annual virtual fundraising efforts - ***An Evening with Abel Speaks.***

Our goals for the event:

1. Raise awareness of our mission through a shared experience with your spheres of influence.

2. Raise funds through donations and an online silent auction featuring fun items and experiences that will allow you to create meaningful moments.

What does your donation cover?

Participants will be invited to donate to Abel Speaks, which would make the following impact:

- $7,500 fully funds 3 Abel Speaks families (an entire small group) for 18 months
- $2,500 fully funds one Abel Speaks family, providing holistic care from diagnosis through delivery and the year following baby's birth
- $500 funds all of the personalized keepsakes for an Abel Speaks family
- $100 funds Gospel-centered grief resources for an Abel Speaks family

PROMOTION & INVITING YOUR ATTENDEES

As you seek to gather people together, here are some tips for reaching out effectively:

CREATE A PERSONAL CONTACT LIST

Consider people in your sphere of influence who would resonate with the mission of Abel Speaks, sharing why this ministry matters to you. If you're an alumni family, reflect on the people who've supported you or been impacted by your story. You could also invite your church family, Bible study and book club groups, and others in your community.

TEXT OR EMAIL FOR DIRECT COMMUNICATION

Send messages via text or email, explaining the event and inviting them to partner with Abel Speaks. These personal messages tend to be the most effective. We'll also provide a graphic to share on social media or via text.

HAVE YOUR GUESTS REGISTER AS PARTICIPANTS (QUICK AND EASY LINK)

Once your friends and family confirm their attendance, you'll send them a short registration link to gather their name/email so we can shoot them the silent auction bidding link. (You will receive an email with more detailed directions for this step.)

FORM YOUR TEAM

Interested in hosting a large number of people for your watch party?
Grab a group of friends and host together.

HERE ARE A FEW WAYS YOU CAN INVITE OTHERS TO JOIN IN THE PLANNING PROCESS:

COMMUNICATIONS

1. Cast vision and invite friends
2. Text/email out the event graphic to spread the word
3. Communicate consistently and clearly leading up to the event
4. Sample invite templates are in the Additional Resources section

DECOR

1. Hosting 101: what do you have and what will you need
2. You will receive a host box with supplies for the night from the Abel Speaks team (see supplies list in Additional Resources)
3. Help with set up and take down the day of the event
4. What to expect + more information in Additional Resources

HOSPITALITY

1. Food + Drinks: determine what your guests will uniquely like
2. Execution: prepare or delegate
3. Look for ways to welcome guests: send text reminders, put a “welcome” note on the door, and designate 1-2 people to take ownership of greeting, engaging and connecting guests.
4. Other ideas for how to host in Additional Resources

TECHNOLOGY

1. Test the Zoom link in advance
2. Contact ***support@abelspeaks.org*** for troubleshooting that may be needed during the event
3. Troubleshooting tips in Additional Resources

SELECT YOUR LOCATION

Abel Speaks supporters from all over the world will be tuning into this event with varying group sizes; so finding the right location for your people is an important first step.

Smaller gathering: Your home, local co-working conference room, or coffeeshop

Larger gathering: Your church, a public event space, or restaurant event room

As you think about your own gathering, be sure that the location you choose has the following:

INTERNET CONNECTION

The reliability of the internet connection is by far the most important factor to consider at your location.

- Your Best Option: Network Cable (ethernet) - This is the fastest and most reliable
- Alternate Option: WiFi - You'll need to know the network name and password and where your modem & router are located.
- Last Resort Option: Cellular data from your phone or tablet
- Test your internet speed at **speedtest.net**
- Check the download speed
- You want a minimum of 5-10 Mb/sec
- Pro Tip: Don't give out your WiFi information to your attendees, as multiple devices running on the same internet can impact your viewing experience.

A WAY FOR YOUR GROUP TO WATCH

Below are devices that you can hook up to your TV or projector and screen using an HDMI cable, VGA Cable, or Chromecast, Apple Mirroring/AirPlay:

- Your Best Option: Laptop or Desktop Computer
- Alternate Option: Tablet
- Last Resort Option: iPhone
- Pro Tip: You may need a dongle to connect your computer to a TV. You can find them available on Amazon!

THE SILENT AUCTION

HOW IT WORKS + WHAT TO EXPECT

What to expect:

- You will receive an email with a link to sign up as a bidder
- You will be responsible for sending the link out to your attendees and encouraging them to get signed up!
- Our silent auction will be open approximately 7-10 days before the event and will close at 9PM CST (half an hour after the virtual broadcast ends).

Keep in mind:

- This is a primary way we will be raising funds, so encourage your guests to bid generously!
- If they'd rather make a direct donation, that option will be available throughout the evening as well.

LIVESTREAMING THE EVENT

1. Our team will send over an email the day before the event with a Zoom link.

2. Go ahead and **test that link** (and download Zoom on your device, if needed) to ensure that everything is working.

3. On the night of May 1st, the link will be live **one hour before** the event begins. You'll know it's functioning properly because we'll have a static screen with a logo and music. **Please test audio.**

4. If you have any issues getting in and seeing that screen, you'll need to proceed with the technology troubleshooting found in the Additional Resources section.

THURSDAY, MAY 1ST
LINK GOES LIVE @ 6PM CST
EVENT BEGINS @ 7PM CST

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

LIVE STREAM TROUBLESHOOTING

IF YOUR INTERNET ISN'T WORKING:

- When in doubt, unplug it and plug it back in.
- Have someone else connect to your internet on their phone to make sure the internet is functioning. If it works for a friend on their device it means your issue is not with the internet connection.

IF YOUR DEVICE ISN'T WORKING:

- Close the internet browser tab that you are using and reopen a new tab to try again.
- If that doesn't work, quit your browser, count to ten, open it up again and try again.
- If that doesn't work, shut down or restart your computer and try again.
- If that doesn't work, use a backup device (tablet, phone, another laptop)

IF YOUR DEVICE & INTERNET ARE WORKING, BUT THE VIDEO WON'T PLAY:

- Check to see if you have the latest version of your internet browser (Chrome,Safari, Firefox, etc).

IF YOU HAVE VIDEO, BUT NO AUDIO:

- Make sure the video isn't muted (and that volume is up on both your TV and your device).
- You can unplug the HDMI cord and see if the sound will play through your laptop. If it works then you will know that the connection to the TV is the issue.
- You can always huddle around a laptop to watch as a last resort and ditch the TV entirely.

IF YOU HAVE BUFFERING ISSUES:

- Check to see that no other individuals are using the internet for streaming tv, movies, or video games.
- You can also ask your attendees to refrain from connecting to your WiFi, as too many users on your internet can slow down the connection.

If you have tried ALL of these and you're still having issues, reach out to support@abelspeaks.org and we will see if we can find a solution.

PROMOTING & INVITING: YOUR ATTENDEES

Here's an optional template you can play with! We obviously kept this one pretty generic, so feel encouraged to personalize it with any other sentiments you'd want to share.

EMAIL TEMPLATE

Hey _____!

As you might know, we have gotten involved in an organization called Abel Speaks that exists to support families who have received a life-limiting diagnosis for their baby.

What you may not know is that their annual event called An Evening with Abel Speaks is coming up on **Thur, May 1st @7pm CST** – we are excited about the program they're preparing in an effort to raise awareness and funding for the ministry.

The vision for Thursday, May 1st is that there will be hundreds of gatherings taking place all across the nation, one of those being at {YOUR ADDRESS}. **That's right, we are hosting a watch party at our place**, and you specifically came to mind as someone we would love to join us that night! So consider this your warm invitation :)

Shoot me a quick reply to let me know if you'd be available and interested in coming? The program will kick off at 7pm CT and wrap up no later than 8:30pm. If you can make it, I'll follow up shortly with more details. Thanks for considering and chat soon!

Gratefully,

TEXT TEMPLATE

Hey _____!

As you probably know, we have gotten involved in an organization called Abel Speaks (www.abelspeaks.org) that exists to support families who have received a life-limiting diagnosis for their baby.

This year, they are hosting their second annual virtual fundraiser and silent auction that helps raise awareness and funds to support families all over the world.

I will be hosting a watch party at (my address) on Thursday, May 1st at 7PM, and I would love for you to join!

Please let me know if you can make it and we'll talk soon!

PROMOTING & INVITING: CHURCH FAMILY

If you intend to host your gathering at a local church, here's an optional template you can play with! We obviously kept this one pretty generic, so feel encouraged to personalize it with any other sentiments you'd want to share.

EMAIL TEMPLATE:

HOW TO INVITE YOUR CHURCH MEMBERS

Subject: Join Us for a Virtual Event with Abel Speaks on May 1st!

Dear [Church Name] Family,

We are excited to invite you to a special virtual event with Abel Speaks (www.abelspeaks.org) on **May 1st at 7:00 PM** supporting families who have received a life-limiting diagnosis for their baby in the womb.

We have been impacted by this ministry by _____. **(share a little of your personal connection to the ministry or your journey)**

Don't miss this opportunity to be part of an impactful evening that aligns with God's heart for protecting and loving life in the womb.

Event Details:
- Date: May 1, 2025
- Time: 7:00 PM
- Location: Virtual (link to follow)

We hope to see you there! Please mark your calendars and stay tuned for more information.

Blessings,
[Your Name]

WHAT WILL I RECEIVE AS A HOST?

YOU'LL RECEIVE:

- Poster and Prints to help share the mission and vision of Abel Speaks and serve as an interactive experience to create conversation. We will also provide the supplies needed to hang up the posters.
- A physical copy of your host guide
- Custom Abel Speaks candle as our gift to you for hosting
- The disposable camera and shipping label with our office address will be included—just capture your memories and put in your mailbox to share your watch party moments.
- $30 towards food or any additional decor/flowers to make your house ready to host

MAKE IT YOUR OWN!

You know your guests best. Consider their interests and create a welcoming environment. Here are a few simple themes to inspire you:

CHIPS & DIP

To create a chips and dip bar, start with a variety of chips—tortilla, pita, and potato chips. Offer a selection of dips like salsa, guacamole, queso, sour cream, and spinach dip. For added variety, include options like hummus, buffalo chicken dip, or vegetable dip. Arrange everything in bowls for easy access and let guests mix and match their favorite flavors!

TACO BAR

To build a taco bar, offer soft tortillas or hard shells, proteins like seasoned beef, chicken, or beans, and a variety of toppings such as lettuce, tomatoes, cheese, salsa, guacamole, sour cream, and jalapeños. Add sides like rice, beans, or chips, and let guests create their own custom tacos!

SUNDAE BAR

Set up an epic dessert spread with cookies, pies, cakes, brownies, donuts, cupcakes, candy, and more! Ask guests to eat dinner beforehand and prepare these sweets ahead of time to reduce stress on the event day.

POTLUCK

Invite guests to bring something to share! Either leave it open-ended or choose a theme, like tacos, and assign each guest a topping (lettuce, tomato, cheese, etc.).

PIZZA

Ordering pizza is an easy way to feed guests. Plan for 2-3 slices per person, offer a variety like cheese, pepperoni, and veggie. you can throw in a salad for balance and would allow you to order less pizza.. Ordering a few extra pies ensures everyone gets enough!

HOSPITALITY TIPS

Like with any event, we want to avoid as many issues as possible. The best way to do t his is by being ahead of the game in prep work! Here are a few hospitality tips to set the day up for success:

PREP THE DAY BEFORE

Handle tasks like preparing food, decor, and swag bags to free up time for tech prep on the event day.

SEND A REMINDER

Send an event reminder with details like the start time, parking info, and your contact info for any questions.

SET THE VIBE WITH MUSIC

Create a welcoming atmosphere with the right playlist.

TEST TECH EARLY

Connect your device, test the internet, and check the Zoom link before guests arrive.

MAKE GUESTS FEEL WELCOME

Encourage conversation, especially for guests who might not know each other. Ask questions to help them connect.

QUESTIONS TO ENGAGE YOUR GUESTS:

- What is you connection with Abel Speaks?
- How did you first hear about this fundraiser?
- Are you familiar with the mission of Abel Speaks?
- Has anyone if your life received a life-limiting diagnosis in the womb?
- Is there anything you are hoping to learn from tonights event?

SUPPORT CHANGES STORIES