LIFE GROUPS

GUIDE TO ONLINE GROUPS

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Stay Connected

Online groups (E-Groups) are a powerful way to provide an expression of biblical community no matter location, limitations, or schedule conflicts.

The easiest way a group stays relationally connected is through their regular group meetings.

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What We are Doing

In this seaon it's more important than ever to stay connected. We will be providing continued support through our weekly email, discussion notes, added video links to the messages, and tech support if you need. Non Sermon based groups will still use their own resources..

This is an oppotunity for us to leverage an incredible tool to help people feel connected and not isolated.

We have an opportuity to include people who may not have every been able to come to a group because of physical or personal limitations.

Let's continue to be the Church and develop life giving community face to face (behind a screen).

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What is an E-Group and What Does it Look Like?

An E-Group is a group of 3-16 people who gather regularly through a text platform, audio call, or video software doing life together. While different, they are still very doable!

E-Groups are not too different from Life Groups that meet in homes. The only differences are the medium they are gathering on and instead of talking in person physically, you talk in face to face on a computer, tablet, or cell phone in your own home.

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What Does a Meeting Look Like?

Most online small groups watch the prior week's message or a video teaching prior to their slotted meeting time.

During an E-Group text conversation, audio call, or video meeting you use the discussion questions provided with the video teaching to guide and facilitate the conversation. Meetings start with prayer and end with prayer requests.

There is usually always time for open conversations prior to the meeting and after the conclusion of the group time. You can see the typical itinerary on the next page.

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What Does a Meeting Look Like?

Pre-Meeting	Log on & open conversation
Start	Opening Prayer
Middle	Talk through the discussion questions
End	Prayer Request
Post-Meeting	Log off & Open Conversation

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Tech Tools Recommended

Technology has allowed us to meet together even if we aren't in the same space.
We encourage you to use a Video tool to make meeting more personal.

TOOLS:

- **Text –**
  - **Facebook group, Whatsapp, or Slack**
- **Audio**
  - **Phone call, Zoom.us, Facetime**
- **Video**
  - **Facebook video chat, Zoom.us, Facetime**

Click the underlinded apps above to vist their website.

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Tips for Video Calling

- Lighting is important
- Select the quietest place in your house
- Level your video camera
- Login to find out how to change default mic and camera (Preferences/Settings)
- Use MUTE & UNMUTE or use Headphones
- Recommend group members to download meeting software prior to meeting

**For Zoom.us watch this training video.*

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Don't Be Discouraged!

"The Apostle Paul, in a vulnerable, personal moment, wrote, 'But God, who encourages those who are discouraged, encouraged us by the arrival of Titus.' (2 Corinthians 7:6 NLT).

If Paul was doing ministry in 2020, I can just imagine Paul and Titus connecting via Face-time, the sight of Titus's face encouraging the great apostle in the midst of a hard ministry season.

In the same way, let's use the tools we have at our disposal to grow as leaders and to grow the depth and faith of our groups!"

- SmallGroups.com

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