

groups

Leading Online Life Groups

Meeting online is different, and that's not just because you can't serve snacks. Many people may be feeling anxious, stressed, or isolated during this season of life. Leaning into one another for encouragement, support, and challenge is an opportunity for growth together. We were not made to be alone. Remember... God is in control.

Tips for Online Life Group Meetings

- **Simplify your meetings.**
 - You may need to change what you're studying to make things simpler for online discussions. (See below for some ideas.)
 - If you are using a video as part of your study, encourage people to watch the video on their own to keep meetings shorter and lessen opportunities for technological glitches.
- **Be flexible with when and how long you meet.**
 - If people in your group have kids at home, you may need to adjust meeting times to later than usual so parents can focus.
 - Attention spans are different online. Many groups find an hour is just right for a virtual Life Group.
- **Leaders need to be more directed.**
 - Facilitating a discussion online is different than in person. There isn't body language or other queues to read. As the leader you may need to direct the conversation more than usual.
 - Ask people by name to reply to a question. This cuts down on verbal chaos and keeps the conversation moving.
 - Don't be afraid to ask people to mute unless they are speaking. It helps with distractions and background noise.
- **Use more of your group time for sharing than usual.**
 - People are dealing with a lot right now. The most important thing your online LifeGroup meeting can provide is safe place for people to share and encourage one another.
 - Getting through your study is less vital right now than providing connection, care and some normalcy for people in time of uncertainty.
- **Don't forget to pray together and focus on who God is.**
 - Help people move their focus from fear to God's faithfulness.
 - Use the verses below as part of your prayer time to remember God's care and provision.

Tools for Life Groups during this Season

- **What can your group easily study and discuss?**
 - Try using the Sermon Discussion Guides from Mark. You can find them on the resources page of www.fhcgroupleaders.org/resources.
 - Have your group members listen to sermons or read articles that help people understand God's care and faithfulness in this season, then discuss them at your online meeting. Try this sermon by Tim Keller on "[Peace in Times of Uncertainty](#)" or these articles from [the Gospel Coalition](#).
 - Remember the [Art of Neighboring Series](#) from last October? We can still neighbor even from 6 feet away. Talk through [this idea guide](#) as a group and build some bridges to people around you.
- **What are some Scriptures you can discuss or pray together as a group?**
 - Psalms 23, 27, 34, 46 and 91
 - Isaiah 43:1-3
 - Ephesians 1:15-23
- **What are some other ways to keep your group connected during this season?**
 - Start a group text where everyone shares one verse they read that day that gave them hope.
 - Divide your group into partners who call/ text during the week to care and pray for each other. Switch partners weekly to build new relationships in the group.
 - Memorize an encouraging verse as a group that reminds everyone that God is in control.
 - Find a Bible Reading Plan on [You Version](#) and follow it together as a group every day.