

RESOURCES FOR GROUP LEADERS

Groups can always use the [RightNowMedia](#) website to stream hundreds of video-based group studies.

Individuals can watch the content on their own and then join an online meeting together to discuss it. (Every person at MCC can have access via their email address to RightNowMedia by sending their email address to church@mccag.org)

Let's rely on the Holy Spirit to inspire us. If someone in your group comes to mind during the day, assume that the Holy Spirit has purposefully brought that person to mind.

That very moment, breathe a prayer for them, asking the Lord to help them to not miss a single blessing intended for them today. Then, give the person a brief call, text, or email message to let them know that you just prayed for them. I believe your encouragement will come at the perfect time!

(Copy this paragraph and send it to every group member, encouraging them to do the same.)

Drop a card in snail mail.

Yes, the U.S. Postal Service still delivers mail to people's physical addresses! Let's revive the lost art of writing a brief note of encouragement or appreciation to others. There is no downside to doing this!

Don't let anyone drop off the radar.

As a group leader, the Lord has given you a number of people for which to care - that is at the heart of "pastoring" others. As in the three stories that Jesus told in Luke 15 about a lost sheep, a lost coin, and a lost son, it's a tragedy when anyone is lost or forgotten; they deserve an all-out search! **Let's not let anyone in our span of care drop out of sight.** Please be intentional to reach out to everyone in your group to check on their status, to encourage them, and to invite them to connect with others in the ways that we've described.

Please share what's working for your group.

As you innovate new and better ways to connect with your group members, please share those ideas with me here. Let's be creative during this challenging season and discover how to be even more effective at loving and serving one another!


WHAT SHOULD GROUP LEADERS DO FIRST?

We encourage group leaders to start by putting together a plan (even if that plan is only for the next week, and will be updated for following weeks) for how your group will stay closely connected with each other. Then, share that plan with your entire group, and create a clear avenue of communication with you and with each other. This might be over a group email, a group text, or another platform. Try to include in your communication any specific details you have about when and how your group will next meet together. If that meeting will be online (which is likely the case), include instructions for how members can participate.

WHAT TOOLS CAN GROUPS USE FOR GATHERING ONLINE?

Many tools exist for gathering people together online, and we encourage groups to choose whichever application works best for them. The following is a list of free video conferencing products that we have tested and recommend.

FACETIME (Recommended only if all group members have Apple devices)

1. FaceTime will allow for multiple participants, not just a one on one call
2. After initiating a FaceTime call from your iPhone or iPad:
 - Pull up the Options Bar
 - Touch Add Person and search for the individuals to add to the call
 - Then touch “Add Person to FaceTime.”
3. After initiating a FaceTime call from a Mac
 - Click  , and then click “Add Person.”
 - Search for the individuals to add to the call
 - Then click “Add.”
4. If you are having trouble using this platform, please visit the FaceTime support page at:
<https://support.apple.com/en-us/HT209022>



FACEBOOK MESSENGER

You can video chat with just one person, or with a group of people. Keep in mind, placing calls through the Messenger app for iPhone, iPad or Android may use your existing data plan. Please contact your mobile operator if you have questions about data charges for calling.



Android, iPhone and iPad (video chat with one person):

1. From  Chats, open a conversation for the person with whom you want to video chat.
2. Tap .

Android, iPhone and iPad (video chat with a group):

1. From  Chats, open a group conversation for the people with whom you want to video chat.
2. Tap .

Windows

1. Open the conversation for the person or group with whom you want to video chat.
2. Click 
3. To end a video call, tap 
4. If you are having issues using this platform, please visit the Facebook Messenger support page at: <https://bit.ly/33j1UBY>

ZOOM

1. For instructions to use Zoom, please visit: <https://bit.ly/2U6wpHd>
2. Zoom does require a free account to use.
3. Note that Zoom only offers free video conferencing up to 40 minutes for any given meeting.
4. Zoom also requires you to download and install the Zoom client which can be found here: <https://zoom.us/support/download>
5. For comprehensive Help Articles and Videos please visit: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/categories/200101697>

SKYPE

1. For detailed instructions, visit: <https://www.skype.com/en/free-conference-call/>
2. Does not require any download or client.
3. Works through a web browser.

GOOGLE HANGOUTS

1. Requires a Google account.
2. Will work on a web browser or through Android/iOS clients.
3. For detailed instructions please visit: <https://bit.ly/3d1dndS>

After trying one or more of these tools, if group leaders have questions or complications surrounding their use, please make sure to visit their respective support pages outlined above. Most of these tools have online “How To” videos as well as specific answers to commonly asked questions.