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# Staying Connected

How to Guide your WordGo Group Online



When circumstances prevent us from gathering together in person, we can stay connected spiritually and relationally in a meaningful way through online small groups. This ebook offers some helpful principles and practices for meeting digitally and introduces some of the best digital tools available.



# Before You Meet

## Set up your group

As a group leader, it's your role to invite others to join in your Bible study. When hosting your group online, instead of in-person, there are a few specific things to keep in mind:

**1** **There is safety in (smaller) numbers** – aim for ten or fewer people in your group. This creates a better opportunity for everyone to share their thoughts.

**2** Your group might be joining from multiple locations so **consider time zones** to ensure your group gathering is held at a convenient time for everyone.

**3** When setting up your group or arranging your next gathering within the WordGo app, you can simply **enter an online meeting URL** instead of a physical address. (see diagram)

Update Location

Do you want to provide an online meeting link?

Meeting url

Notes

Type any notes...

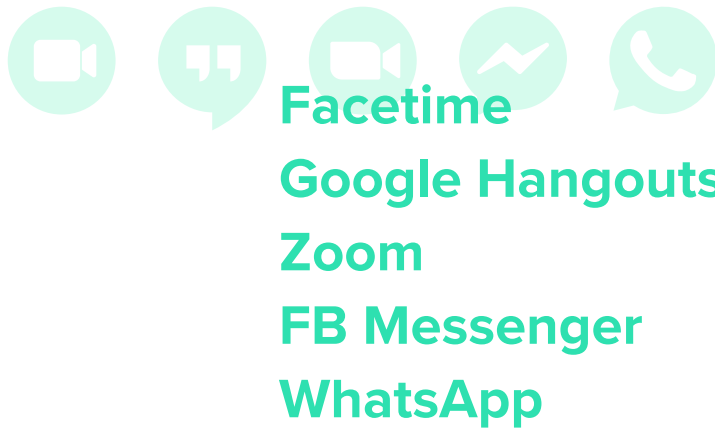
SAVE

Your Private Notes



## Choose a platform

There are many platforms to choose from that are simple to use and are ideal for online Bible study. Below are some tools that could work for you. Tap a link for details on how to get set up:



[FaceTime](#)

[Google Hangouts](#)

[Zoom](#)

[FB Messenger](#)

[WhatsApp](#)

Questions you should consider...

- 1 Cost**  
How many people can you host with a free account?
- 2 Number of people you can host**  
Are there limitations to group size?
- 3 Quality of sound/video**  
Do any have options for an external microphone or speaker?
- 4 Access**  
Does everyone in your group have access?

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## Prepare for your group

- 1 A couple of days before your group gathering, **reach out** with a reminder of time, meeting platform, and study.
- 2 Create an outline and talking points to **plan the structure** and running order of the gathering.
- 3 Consider conducting a run-through to **check your connection** and ensure the microphone and camera are working.

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# Anticipate and address tech challenges

As you get started, don't be surprised if your group faces some technical challenges - most do! But remember, most tech issues are simple fixes. Some of the most common challenges online groups face are:

- **Poor connectivity**
- **Sound quality**
- **Interruptions, like phone calls or texts**
- **Switching between meeting platform and WordGo application on your device**

To alleviate these challenges, consider...

- **Do a dry run-through**
- **Use a dedicated mic and speaker**
- **Turn off other applications using internet on your phone or computer**
- **Consider using two devices, if available - WordGo on your one and meeting on another**

The top half of the page features an abstract graphic composed of several teal-colored shapes. On the left, there is a large, light teal circle with a darker teal center. To its right, there is a smaller, light teal circle. Further right, there is a dark teal arc with a lighter teal segment on top. A small, light teal dot is positioned to the right of the arc. The background is a solid teal color.

# During your Gathering



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## Pursue the Personal

Just because you're not hosting people in your home, doesn't mean it can't be hospitable and welcoming. Consider the following to make sure your group feels at ease:

- 1** Start with a **welcome, questions, and best practices** like muting when you're not speaking
- 2** Encourage everyone to enjoy the same **food and beverage** e.g. cake and coffee.
- 3** Each week, **create a 'theme'** for attire e.g. suggest everyone wears something red.



# After your Gathering

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## Take it deeper

As a Group Guide, it's helpful to view the rest of the week as an opportunity for deeper connections. Staying in touch as a group is so beneficial in terms of intentional, purposeful and meaningful interaction. Consider the following to help your group go deeper:

- 1 Create a group text chain** - WordGo offers a messaging function to enable ongoing communication.
- 2 Share prayer requests** - WordGo has a prayer request log that can keep track of prayers and their answers between groups.
- 3 Discussing the passage in more depth** - WordGo has personal notes and questions, and group notes and questions that allow for contemplation and conversation.

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