

FACILITATING AN ONLINE “GO” MEN’S GROUP

Jesus Christ launched his divine plan to redeem mankind by making disciples out of a small group. He used that small group to create momentum and keep it going. The question, of course, is why would He do that? Why a small group?

Most meaningful change takes place in the context of relationships—men sharpening men with truth, encouragement, and commitment. **THANK YOU** for your willingness to be a part of this transformative time in the lives of your group members.

“Never doubt the power of a small group of people to change the world. That’s about the only way it has ever happened in the past.”

–Margaret Mead,
Anthropologist

HERE’S HOW IT WORKS

1. **Start by choosing a video conferencing platform** to gather online when you can’t meet face-to-face. Our go-to tool for video meetings is **Zoom**.

Pros: The free version allows large groups to meet, set recurring meeting times, send calendar invites, use breakout rooms for smaller groups to talk or pray together, and more. It has an easy-to-use interface and features.

If you’re using Zoom for the first time, we recommend watching this helpful video tutorial: [Getting Started with Zoom](#).

2. **Then if you want to stay connected between meetings, create a private [Facebook Group](#)** where guys can interact, discuss the devotions, and share prayer requests during the week.

Pros: It’s free, and many men already have a Facebook account, so that’s one less thing for your guys to figure out, as most of them will already know how to use the features.

3. **Invite men to the first week’s 40-minute meeting.**

Have each man introduce himself. You may want to have a light-hearted icebreaker prepared to help guys open up, such as the question “What is an item on your bucket list?” or the game “Two Truths and a Lie” to help guys get to know each other.

Consider asking each man to take just a couple of minutes to share briefly where he is on his spiritual journey, and what he hopes to give and get out of the group study. Don’t try to go too far too fast; be sensitive to men who may take longer to decide to share.

Before you end the call, make sure each man knows how to access the videos for the study, how to download/print the Guidebook, and when the next meeting is. **Ask them to watch the Week One video PRIOR to your next meeting, as well as read the five daily devotions.**

NOTE: If sound quality on your video call is a problem, ask men to mute their microphones when they aren’t answering a question or discussing something.

4. **Use weeks 2-5**, for a discussion of the four-week GO men’s study. **Here is a suggested format for a 40-minute meeting**, with men watching the week’s video on their own beforehand.
 - Greeting and a quick icebreaker question—10 minutes
 - Discussion about previous week’s devotions and reflection questions—5 minutes

- Group discussion questions—20 minutes
 - Prayer requests—5 minutes
5. If you're using a **private Facebook Group to keep guys engaged between meetings (RECOMMENDED)**, consider posting one of each day's reflection questions from the daily devotion and sharing something from your own devotion time. You might also share the week's key verses from the video, remind guys of The Big Idea for the week, ask an icebreaker question, share a humorous meme, or share and request prayer requests. **This will enrich your small-group experience by helping guys get to know each other better and stay connected.**

TIPS FOR FACILITATING DISCUSSION

In the case of these groups, your primary role is to help facilitate the groups—*not teach*. Your leadership will be geared toward steering discussion and making men **feel cared for and supported**.

We recommend you **call or text your group members each week**. This can be a short call or text that simply expresses, "I'm glad you're in the group and I'll see you Thursday," for example. Contacting each man helps him feel like a valued member of the group and encourages him to prioritize the meeting.

It is up to you to set the tone for the group; **be authentic, enthusiastic, and affirming**. Remember—a small group is many things, including a hospital for men with broken wings; make yours a safe place for men. Don't put pressure on them to conform to certain behavior. Instead, simply show men Christ and welcome them. Make sure group members know that anything mentioned during meetings is **confidential** and is not to leave the group.

It's also important that you **honor the time** during your group meetings. Aim to start and end on time every week. Always thank group members for participating before they leave.

Your goal for discussion: **Airtime for every man every week**. Draw out the quiet man without making him feel uncomfortable. Sense his pace. If you have a man who talks too much, ask him privately to help you draw out the more reserved men.

Don't talk more than 25% of the time. If there is silence when you ask a question, don't try to fill the space. The weekly videos each have discussion questions in them, as well as the daily devotions. Use these to steer the direction of the group meeting. Encourage more than one person to answer a question with a statement such as, "Does anyone else have a thought about that?"

Thank you for volunteering to invest in the lives of your group members!
Proverbs 27:7 reminds us: "Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another."
Ready to GO? Let's take the journey!