








Online Groups and Technology Made Easy

Hosting an Online Small Group is one of the ways we continue to *Reach People and Build Lives*. We're helping people grow closer to God through authentic relationships.

If you're new to hosting an Online Group, we've made it easy for you to get started. Below is a list of recommended technology to hold your meetings online. We've provided tips and instructions to help you best determine which digital platform works best for you.

Technology	Description	Pros	Cons	Instructions
 <p>ZOOM</p>	A video conference app for your computer or mobile phone for up to 100 people with the ability to screen share videos.	Basic plan is free. Phone-in option. Break-out rooms.	40-min limit in the free version. \$14.99/mo. for a paid account with unlimited time.	<p>Learn more at zoom.us or watch this video.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Go to zoom.us. • Create an account and login • Click “Host a meeting with video on” • Click “Invite participations” • Select how you’d like to send an invite. • You can also schedule a meeting on the zoom website and send an invite to join you at a specific time, including a link to your online meeting.
 <p>GOOGLE HANGOUTS MEET</p>	Hangouts Meet offers instant messaging, voice and video calls for up to 25 people, and the ability to screen share videos.	Free. Unlimited time. Closed Captioning. Accessible via web browser on computer.	Requires a Google account for all participants. (can sign up for one HERE). Phone-in option not available unless you have a business account.	<p>Learn more at meet.google.com or watch this video.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Google Hangouts. • Login • Click “Video Call” button • Click “Invite People” and type in their email address (If they don’t have a Google account it will send them an invite to setup an account) • You can also schedule a meeting on your Google calendar and send an invite to join you at a specific time, including a link to your online meeting. (See Instructions)
 <p>SKYPE</p>	A downloadable video conference app for your computer or mobile phone for up to 50 people with the ability to screen share videos.	Free. Unlimited time.	Reliability when additional audio and video participants are added.	<p>Learn more at skype.com or watch this video.</p>

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 <p>FACEBOOK MESSENGER GROUPS</p>	<p>A Facebook feature that allows for group conversations and group video calls. Capacity is 50 participants: 6 video and 44 audios.</p>	<p>Free. Accessible via web browser on computer. Can access without a Facebook account. (Download the app to your phone and use phone number.)</p>	<p>Phone-in option not available. Limit of 6 video participants.</p>	<p>Click here to learn more or watch this video.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Facebook Messenger on web browser or mobile app • Login (with Facebook account or phone number) • Click “New Message” button to add Facebook friends to group chat. • After adding contacts, click the “Video Call” button to start video chat.
 <p>FREE CONFERENCE CALL</p>	<p>If your group is not as tech savvy or doesn't have the technology to do a video chat, this website offers a free conference call option to phone in. It will be a long-distance number most likely.</p>		<p>No video options.</p>	<p>Go to FreeConferenceCall.com®</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sign up for free account. • Share the dial-in number and access code with your group.
 <p>FACETIME</p>	<p>If everyone in your group has an Apple device, this is an easy way to join with up to 32 people on your phone or computer.</p>		<p>Limited to iPhone or IOS users.</p>	<p>Learn more at apple.com or watch this video.</p>
 <p>PHONE CALL</p>	<p>If any of these above options seem too complicated, you can join with group members using the audio conference feature on your mobile.</p>		<p>Audio only.</p>	

*Degraaff, J. *How To Host An Online Group*. Northridgeleaders.com. https://www.northridgeleaders.com/online-groups?fbclid=IwAR1rWjoGDzha-jG9dDSB2ZLGTCgkEiW2Wlfn_NSvUN33D2A1v6xiBWlyzr8.