

Renew Group Leaders,

Thanks for being leaders within our Renew family. The staff and I are praying for you as you help us lead the way during these uncharted times. Praying for your faith to grow, for you to be attentive to opportunities from the Holy Spirit, and for protection for your families.

I just wanted to reach out and give you some ideas of what you can do to still be leading your community well.

I think it's best to focus on a few things...

- Helping people still feel a part of community by leading virtual group meetings and possibly still some smaller in person gatherings (While listening and abiding by all the public health instructions that change every day)
- Providing some type of prayer connection
- Meeting one another's needs as you can
- And paying attention to how you can be on mission during this time

Virtual Meet Ups!

One of the best ways to pray together, hear about one another's needs, to find out how to be on mission while still being responsible, and to just hangout, is through virtual meet ups!

You could hold these over the next few weeks in the same rhythm that you would hold your regular Renew Group meetings or find some kind of schedule that works for your group. Another idea is that it may be better to hold them a bit later so families with kids can get them in bed, this might make the virtual meeting run smoother.

Here are some tips to lead a virtual Renew Group...

- Be engaging – Take the lead in the conversation and set the tone just like you would at any regular meeting. By doing this you will make people feel comfortable with this new reality.
- Invite people to interact – Take the lead with engaging but don't dominate the space! Again, just like you would during a normal group time. Invite people to talk and respond to things, some people may be hesitant if they haven't used this kind of platform before.
- Make it feel like you are sitting around the dinner table! – Keeping things light might help with fostering community.
- Make sure to model prayer – Leading the charge with an interactive prayer time can really make this time beneficial for your group.
- Have 2 to 3 clear directives – You want things to be light and informal but at the same time you want people to know that there is a goal for why you are meeting. This could be as simple as you want to make sure you pray for each other, and want to see if anyone has any needs or knows of anyone that has any needs that can be met.

Below I have listed some information on how to host virtual meetings and some content ideas to push out to your group members that you can go over on your own time and the can provide some conversation when you gather as a group.

Great option to have a virtual Renew Group

- **Google Meet**
 - This in my opinion is the easiest and best option for a group that is using different devices (Mac, PC, iPhone, Android, etc.)
 - Just go to <https://meet.google.com/> and sign into a gmail account. You will need a google account to host a meeting, they are easy and free to sign up for. **However, you do not need a google account to be invited to and to join a meeting.**
 - Here is the instruction page on various ways to start and invite people to a google meet. The easiest way is under the “Start a video meeting from Meet” section. <https://support.google.com/meet/answer/9302870?co=GENIE.Platform%3DDesktop&hl=en>
- **FaceTime**
 - This might be the best and easiest option for a group that is all about that apple life. If everyone in your group uses an iPhone, iPad, or Mac, and has up to date software, this is super simple.
 - No instructions needed, all you iPhone people know what you are doing! Well, just in case... <https://www.macworld.co.uk/how-to/iosapps/group-facetime-calls-3678476/>
- **Zoom**
 - This is another great option for larger virtual meetings
 - There is a free base version <https://zoom.us/>
- **Skype**
 - Skype is terrible, stay away from it. (just kidding... kind of... Okay, honestly, it’s terrible)

Content suggestions for your Renew Group

- **RightNow Media**
 - A lot of Renew Groups have been using this platform, I would suggest praying about what you are going through and looking for studies on here to use with your group. One that I have been thinking about watching during this time is Philippians: To Live Is Christ, and To Die Is Gain, taught by Matt Chandler.
 - There are also a lot of great options to keep kids busy while they are home from school.
- **Passion Conference**

- You could head to Youtube and watch the talks and worship from the latest passion conference. The YouTube handle is passionconferences and the latest conference was passion 2020.
- **One Hour. One Book.**
 - Another great option is to go through Randy Smith's One Hour One Book videos. These are videos lead by the teacher who created our GCBI Curriculum where he takes each book of the bible and gives an overview and breakdown of them in roughly an hour's time. <https://www.1hour1book.com>
- **The Bible Project**
 - The bible project is a great resource. They have illustrated video for books of the bible, themes within the bible, and even videos on how to read the bible. None of the videos are super long and they are all very watchable.
 - <https://bibleproject.com>
- **YouVersion Bible App**
 - YouVersion is a great bible app that can be found on any app store. Even if you don't use it for this, if you don't already have it, you should download it!
 - Simply pick a bible reading plan (There are a ton of them) and then while you are setting it, pick the option that allows you to go through it with other people. You can invite people during the set-up time, and you can also send out the link for people to join at a later time.
 - Your group can track through the plan together, and then discuss what they are reading during the virtual meeting.
- **Relevant articles for the time**
 - For you as a leader - <https://careynieuwhof.com/crisis-leadership-christian-leadership-and-the-corona-virus-epidemic/>
 - <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/justin-taylor/a-guide-for-local-christian-leaders-in-the-time-of-coronavirus/>
 - For your group - <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/what-we-know-coronavirus/>
 - <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/4-lessons-church-history/>
 - <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/love-neighbor-pandemic/>

Prayer

- <https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/2020/03/12/power-prayer-deal-reduce-coronavirus-anxiety-covid-19-column/5014472002/>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=poUIMjmAl7g>