

NORTH WAY VIRTUAL SMALL GROUP

leader resource

Welcome to our new Virtual Groups! We are so glad that you have decided to be part of a community in this season where gathering in person is a challenge. You may be new to group leadership or simply new to this format, so we wanted to give you a few tips and some instructions about the content.

- The online groups will be focusing on content from our weekend services. Questions will be posted each week on our website: northway.org. Scroll down the page and click on “Sermon Discussion Questions”
- For each week, you will receive the same format of questions, prayer prompts, and application suggestions. Here is what you can expect:

ICE BREAKERS - If you are a new group, these will be an important part of your time together. These fun questions help to get people talking and getting to know each other. You are free to use any icebreakers, but we will suggest a few each week. You can also download the app “Questions in a Box” or google “Great Icebreakers” for additional help.

LAUNCH QUESTIONS - These help to segue you into the discussion. Launch questions are easy to respond to and are somewhat related to the topic of the discussion that you are about to have. These are slightly more serious than icebreakers, and some leaders use these for their icebreaker.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS - These will be based on the content of the weekend sermon and should be where most of your time is spent. It is important to remember that while ice breakers and/or launch questions are important to develop relationships, the discussion content is where you can dig in together to God’s word. Just be mindful of allowing the bulk of your time to land here.

There will be 4-6 questions that will be based on the sermon, and many of these questions will push the group toward personal application of the sermons. You may not cover every question, and not every person needs to answer every question, but here are some ideas that we can share from our experiences with traditional and virtual small groups.

- Virtual groups will be new for some, and many will be hesitant to speak at first. Whether it be buffering problems, screen delays, or just plain shyness, you may have to work a little harder to make sure everyone gets an opportunity to share. If they don't get involved, they likely will not stay.
- You will often have a person who is happy to contribute to every question! This can be a drain on a group and ultimately hurt the other members. To help with this, you may want to set up some ground rules at the beginning. This doesn't need to feel controlling or awkward if you simply acknowledge that this is a different medium, and the group will need to work hard to make sure everyone gets involved.
- Don't worry if you have trouble answering questions that come up during your group time. You are not expected to be a theologian or bible scholar. We are here to help you, so feel free to tell your group that you will be reaching out to find some answers before next week. Your discipleship directors and campus pastors are always available to help!

PRAYER PROMPTS - we encourage you to make your time of closing prayer as meaningful as possible and not always just ask for prayer requests. Get creative in the ways that you pray for and with each other. We'll give you some ideas each week.

SENDING CHALLENGE - This final section is so important. Although the discussion questions will lean toward application of the content, this section will give your group concrete challenges to live out the things you are studying. Often, there will also be opportunities for deeper study of the scriptures that were discussed in the sermon. These can lead to great discussions during the week on a group chat or a great way to open the following week.

We're excited for this new journey together, and we're to help in any way that we can. If you have any questions along the way, don't hesitate to reach out to the Discipleship Director at your campus.