

COVID Small Group Meeting Options

Gathering as a church wisely during the COVID pandemic is an ongoing adventure to say the least! Although this season has been uncomfortable, God often stretches our faith when we step outside our comfort zones. We want to lead by faith and make the most of this season for the Gospel rather than being ruled by fear—especially when it comes to small groups.

Thank you for taking the leap to lead a small group during this strange season! We recognize there is not a one-sized fits all solution for groups and we trust you to decide which option works best for you. The following is a guide to help you navigate the COVID season together and be equipped to answer some tough questions so we can pursue unity and growth in Christ.

Options for Meeting Together:

Meet online	Meeting on-line can be a great way to build community. Hope provides a free zoom link for your group.
Meet outside	Firepits, patios, lawn-chairs give you a great chance to spread out and have less to clean (you can meet outside with less than 25 people)
Meet in homes	Some may have large enough homes to meet safely, but breaking into smaller groups could work better (groups need to be less than 10).
Meet around Gethope.tv	Gather to watch a service and connect after in person or virtually

Guidelines to Stay Safe:

Set clear expectations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Talk through and decide the best option for your group • Communicate your expectations ahead of time so people come prepared and trust they will be safe
Respect those with different needs or views related to COVID	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love each other across disagreements and find the best solution for your group; work to include those who have different needs • Don't let your view of COVID be greater than your view of Jesus
Decide how you will handle sanitation, food, bathroom, and childcare issues	<p>Sanitation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure to follow the CDC guidelines for health safety • Think of your home like someone going to a small business • Have some good sanitation wipes or alcohol-based spray on hand • Clean door-handles, surfaces, etc thoroughly after meeting <p>Food:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It's probably best for people to bring their own food if you eat • Potlucks, buffets, chips, and salsa won't really work anymore • Childcare: Most people probably won't feel comfortable having their kids in close proximity with others, you could: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up your kids with a movie or activity and join virtually, or • Find family or friends or hire a sitter to watch kids, or • Married couples could alternate who stays home with kids • Have kids at one house and rotate 2 people from your group to kid-sit them