



# HOW TO LEAD

## A GREAT ONLINE GROUP



Sometimes, it is simply not possible to meet together in the same room. As we transition into a time where our face-to-face meetings will be limited, we want to make sure that we are not neglecting the most crucial part of our groups culture: community. Biblical community is bigger than just a physical gathering; it is what happens when we intentionally come together to speak life, encouragement, and truth into each other's lives—and now, more than ever, that kind of community is as crucial as it has ever been.

Whether you are leading a Life Group or a D-Group, you are not just leading a meeting. You're leading people. In a time when many of your members may feel overwhelmed, anxious, or confused, you have more opportunities than normal to care for your group. Your meetings may not look like they always have, but every effort you make to let your members know they are cared for and not alone—even if it is just something simple— will speak volumes.

*This is a simple guide to help you do exactly that.*

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## 1 PICK YOUR PLATFORM

We live in an increasingly digital world, which means that your opportunities to stay connected are almost limitless. Here are a couple of options for groups to meet together online:

- Zoom
- FaceTime
- GroupMe
- Google Hangouts

You may already be familiar with some of these. But if you are not, the rest of this guide will help you set up Google Hangouts for free.

## 2 COMMUNICATE THE PLAN

Let your group know where your digital meet-ups will take place. If you are using something like Zoom or Google Hangouts, have them create a free account and collect their contact information.

Once you have settled on the medium you want to use, let your group know the schedule you will keep. If you generally meet on Tuesday nights, for instance, you can still set your meeting for the same time.

Allow for a grace period as people get used to meeting digitally. It will take some getting used to, but as long as you are there for each other, it's absolutely possible!

## 3 BE FLEXIBLE

As you settle into a new rhythm, remember that the number one priority during this time is the people in your group. Good leadership doesn't mean that your perfectly executed plan goes off without a hitch; it means that each person in your group feels heard and cared for and loved by the people around them.

We will still be providing sermon-based curriculum for Life Groups to use, and D-Groups can still revolve around HEAR Journals, Scripture memory, and personal accountability, but sometimes your meetings may not look like they usually do. It might be that your members need to take some time to update you about their personal situations, current needs, and ask questions. That is perfectly okay, too.

As a leader, you get to help this happen. We think that's amazing.

## 4 PROMOTE MUTUAL CARE

Once you get a handle on how everyone in your group is getting on, pay special attention to the different needs that arise. One of the benefits of living in community—even if that community is distant—is that we have each other to lean on when we are in need. Do what you can to make use of the resources the group has to help out those who need something. Take your cues from the first century church:

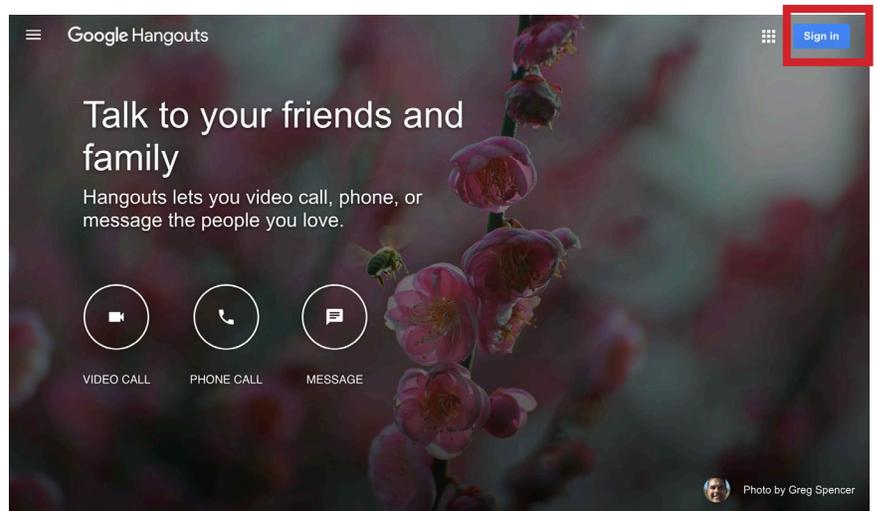
“Now the entire group of those who believed were of one heart and mind, and no one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but instead they held everything in common ... For there was not a needy person among them because all those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the proceeds of what was sold, and laid them at the apostles' feet. This was then distributed to each person as any had need” (Acts 4:32, 34-35).

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# HOW TO CREATE A GOOGLE HANGOUT

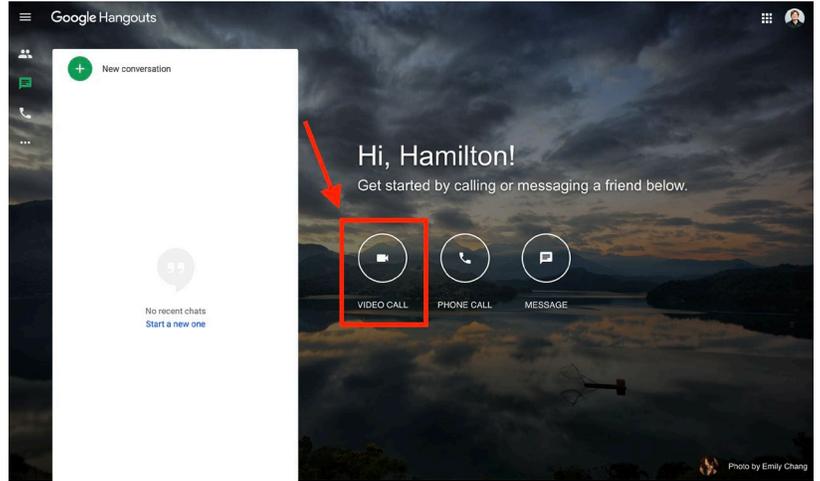
## 1 SIGN IN

- Click Sign In in the top-right corner
- If you do not have a Google account, click “Create Account” or “Use Another Account” to create one.



## 2 CREATE VIDEO CALL

- Once signed in, click the Video Call button on the left side of the screen
- If asked, allow "hangouts.google.com" to use your camera and microphone



## 3 CLICK "JOIN OR START A MEETING"

- This will give you an option to name your meeting. This is optional. You can leave it blank if you want.



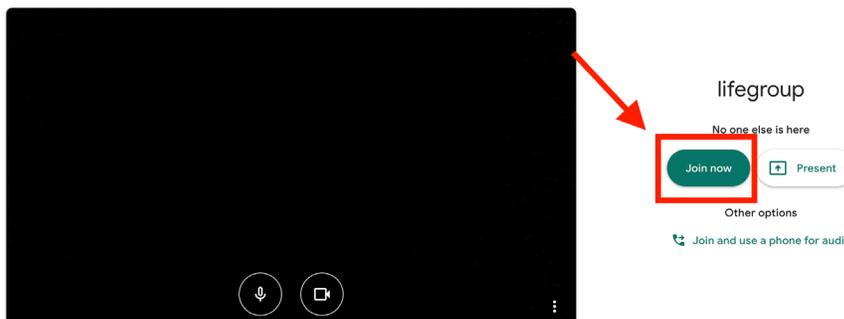
Join or start a meeting ✕

Enter the meeting code or nickname. To start your own meeting, enter a nickname or leave blank.

Continue

## 4 INVITE YOUR GROUP

- Click "Join Now" to create the meeting and allow others to join, too.



- When asked to add others, either click “Add people” to invite them with their email address or click “Copy joining info” to paste the invitation in an email thread or messaging app

## Add others



# lifegroup

Meeting nickname (Can only be used within Long Hollow Baptist Church)

Share this info with people you want in the meeting

<https://meet.google.com/rng-jihw-bsn>

Dial-in: (US) +1 443-585-0320 PIN: 351 380 364#

[More phone numbers](#)

 Copy joining info

 Add people

## 5 TELL YOUR GROUP HOW TO JOIN

- A day or so in advance, send a message to your group along these lines:

*Hey Group!*

*To help everyone stay safe, we're going to have our group online! About ten minutes before we start, I will email you a link to a Google Hangout call.*

*If you are on your computer (Easiest Method! Does not require a Google account), simply click the link and the call should open in your browser. If asked, click to allow "hangouts.google.com" to use your camera and microphone.*

*If you prefer to use a smartphone, download the Google Hangouts app from the Apple App Store or Google Play. On the app, you will have to login with a Google Account or create one. Once you've logged in, simply click on the link I will send.*

*For couples, please use just one device per household to avoid echos on the call. If you have any questions, please give me a call!*



REMEMBER, WE ARE HERE FOR YOU IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS. STAY TUNED TO THE LONG HOLLOW GROUP LEADER PODCAST FOR THE MOST UP-TO DATE INFORMATION DIRECTLY FROM US. WE'RE PRAYING FOR EACH ONE OF YOU!

