

LifeGroup Time Virtual Guide

We suggest using Google Hangout Meets or Google Hangout to meet. We'd also suggest working with your group to find a good time once kids are in bed to host LifeGroup time, with about an hour as the maximum time to meet.

1. Catch Up On Life:

This is when we update each other on the things that Jesus has been up to in our lives since we last saw each other. As a church family, we care about each other's lives: what we're celebrating, what we're mourning, what decisions we are praying through, and everything in between. (1 Thessalonians 2:8, Romans 12:10 and 15)

Suggested Time: 10 - 20 minutes

- How are you doing? Do you have any practical needs?
- What can you thank God for this week? Where have you seen God at work? What has the Lord been teaching you in the last week?

Pray: Take every opportunity to pray and thank God for the good He's doing in our lives, and ask for help and healing anywhere there is pain.

2. Giving:

Jesus tells us where our treasures go, our hearts will follow. Whereas discontentment is counting what you don't have, generosity reverse-engineers our hearts to count what we do have as we help provide needs for one another (Matthew 6:21).

Suggested time: 5 minutes

During this time each year, we take 3-4 weeks to focus on growing in generosity. Here are the initiatives we are rallying around as a church.

- Utilize recurring online giving for regular tithe ([Two Notch](#))
- LifeGroups partner with a STC organization.

- Attend the Personal Finance class by signing up on our website.
- Give to Homeless No More on our website.

3. Advent Study:

We are dependent upon the Holy Spirit to use the Word of God to transform us. Pray that He would open our eyes to the truth of His Word and that God would change us as we study this text together.

Suggested Time: 20 - 30 minutes

Pray: Thank God for the revelation and comfort of His Word through the Holy Spirit. Pray that He makes this time fruitful, with His Word taking root in our hearts.

Over the next few weeks, our guides will focus on the four themes of the Advent season: hope, peace, joy, and love.

Read these scripture(s) aloud: Isaiah 7:14, 1 Peter 1:3-9. Pause and summarize the meaning of these verses at a glance.

Watch [this video](#) that describes the biblical meaning of hope. After watching the video, share additional thoughts and questions you have about the meaning of those verses.

1. Discuss the difference between biblical hope and optimism.

2. How does Jesus' coming strengthen our hope?

4. Engage the Heart:

Jesus calls us to walk in the light, confessing our sins to God and each other. God's Spirit works through confession and community to lead us to repentance. (Romans 3:23-24, James 5:16 and 1 John 1:5-10)

Suggested Time: For the prayer below, we suggest 5-10 minutes.

Pray: Close your time together by praying for the following:

- Pray for the Spirit to work in you as you take steps of repentance
- Pray for God to meet the needs of those in your group
- Pray for the sick and vulnerable

Keeping In Touch: Keep in touch with each other through smaller groups this week. Be sure to check in with each other by phone call, Google Hangouts or FaceTime, text messages, and GroupMe. Be intentional to ask Godward questions like the following when you catch up:

- What are you struggling to trust God with this week?
- How can you give God control of it?
- Has the Holy Spirit been prompting you to do anything that you've been resisting?
- What steps do you need to take to obey?