

Best Practices  
September 4, 2020

*Jesus said to him, “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind....’ And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself’” (Matthew 22:37-39).*

*But, speaking the truth in love, we may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ (Ephesians 4:15).*

**Leaders**, welcome to the 2020/21 season of small groups!

It may feel a little clunky now, but trust me when I tell you that God is already working mightily in this season of crisis and change. The important thing is to remain humble and open to what God will do through this new season of group. YOU CAN DO THIS! You are leaders. You are highly trained conversation specialists. You have the skills necessary to lead well and help facilitate a conversation in which the Holy Spirit will work. Make your first small group of the new season one that is deeply reliant on God to do what He wants with you and your people.

### [Zoom Reminders for First Night of Group](#)

Remember to do the following before your first Zoom small group:

- Test your computer, camera, and microphone.
- Wear appropriate clothing for small group.
- Stay engaged and avoid any distracting behavior (keep looking at the screen).
- Use the “mute all” feature if necessary.
- Use the “Chat” box for any extra communications.
- Remember S.O.L.E.R.
  - Squarely face people
  - Open posture
  - Lean slightly forward
  - Eye contact
  - Relax and depend on God

### [Leadership Reminders for First Night of Group](#)

Schedule for the night:

- \* 35 minutes: People arrive and get comfortable in Zoom
- \* 5 minutes: Pray together
- \* 20 minutes: Get acquainted or reacquainted with “Ice Breaker” questions. Work the circle.
  - Ask Small Groups for a copy of the “Ice Breaker” Document
- \* 30 minutes: Small Group Covenant
  - Click here for a printable PDF of the covenant!  
[https://www.shadowmountain.org/Content/HtmlImages/Public/Documents/General/SmallGroups/Resources/Covenant%20-%20new%202019\\_2020.pdf](https://www.shadowmountain.org/Content/HtmlImages/Public/Documents/General/SmallGroups/Resources/Covenant%20-%20new%202019_2020.pdf)

Remember, you only need four components to lead a great small group:

- **Connect time** – Helping group members connect relationally, helping them matter to each other
- **The Lesson** – The sermon questions
- **Prayer & Support** – Sharing struggles, difficulties, victories, and praying for each other

→ **Planning & Business** – Working on Zoom glitches and helping people get comfortable in the new environment

**Mark Your Calendars!**

September 28, from 7-8pm will be our first Zoom Leader Community (ZLC) of the season.

More details to come!

**Zoom Learning Link (for those in your group)**

If those in your group need help figuring out the ins and outs of Zoom, send them these helpful links. Each of these simple tutorials are 3 minutes or less.

How to Join a Zoom Meeting:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ApwdyWdV\\_s&t=57s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ApwdyWdV_s&t=57s)

How to download Zoom to your computer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HRrIJVQAINQ>

How to use Zoom during a meeting:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fY0ZiWi8n-U>

*And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance* (Colossians 3:23-24).

We love you all and are excited to see God work through you as you lead your people to love God and love each other!

**Lead well,**

**Pastor Dale, Pastor Rod, Pastor Scott, Bethany, and Melissa**