

Texas Baptists Discipleship Roundtable Notes

3/19/2020 - Conducted on Zoom

Here are the quick notes from today's Roundtable. Feel free to share ideas with others, and thanks for participating.

Three Big Ideas as we minister to our churches

1. Normal rhythms - jump in to provide opportunities, but be careful about our (sometimes) tendency to overschedule
2. Encourage regular "screen breaks" (time away from screens to be with family, prayer/meditation, etc.)
3. Acknowledge value of connections (including virtual)
 - just because it's virtual doesn't change the relationship
 - pen pals at one church
 - good old phone calls and notes

Six Tips For Leading Online Groups which may help your leaders

From <https://texasbaptists.org/article/distance-discipleship-facilitating-virtual-group-connections>

1. Practice
2. Let a tech-savvy person in your group help set up the technology
 - you can still teach/lead
3. Be OK with a different "feel" of meetings
 - people talking at same time or awkward silence
 - help the group be OK with it by addressing up front
4. Share the time
 - don't do it all yourself
 - give time to your other leaders (outreach, missions, etc.)
5. Invite the disconnected
 - this is a good opportunity to connect or reconnect with those in your communities
 - one pastor told of a person who had never attended his church who contacted him after a streamed service to ask questions
 - another associate pastor said his church had zero online presence before this week—he had over 700 in his Bible study yesterday on Facebook Live.
6. God is still at work
 - we have an opportunity strengthen and form connections via a different format

Ideas from the Group

+Going online with an abbreviated service instead of multiple services

- 10-15 minute message

+RightNow Media subscription

+One church had an increase from the normal ~150 to 754 people online last Sunday

+Instagram live for youth pastor to connect with youth group (know what platform each group is using most and connect with it)

+Distributing resources

-have toilet paper and baby wipes in the building not being used, so distributing to members who cannot find them in stores

+for first time in 50 years the church is not competing with sports for attention

-an opportunity to reach a segment of our communities that would otherwise be focused on other things/events

+Texas Baptists resources available at txb.org/response/covid-19

-free Adult Bible Study - Faith > Fear

-free youth, children, preschool Bible Study that parents could use

-other articles and ideas

+LifeWay resources available at lifeway.com/coronavirus

+Ministry grid

+free resources for kids

-if you have digital licenses that need to be distributed just make sure to put it behind a login page

-LifeWay can't grant access to music videos

+Online giving popping up frequently

-online giving with grace

+provide an opportunity to give

+be sensitive to fact that income in flux for many right now

+Live streaming

-monitoring live chat during the service, any best practices?

+Reading plan for the book of John

-shared instructions

-journal

+Video formatting for services and daily videos

-Fireside chat style

+consider the view that people will see

+keep it closer in perspective

+Engaging older folks

-call the number on Zoom to join in

+Hold a chat with church leadership that members can attend

-keep it informal

-Q&A

+Group fellowships, online games where people can play on their phones

+Zoom for small groups

-free and \$15/mo versions hold up to 100 people which can be split into rooms

-one church is reimbursing teachers for \$15 Zoom subscription

-one person shared that some teachers were resistant until they saw screenshots of other classes in the church, then asked how they could do it, too

+Recording music in advance

-check license to make sure you can stream under the provisions

+Share your stories (with david.adams@texasbaptists.org, with each other)

-really cool things happening already—will be more

-this is an opportunity for churches to do great ministry

+Good time to connect with homeschool parents for good ideas about engaging kids—they have been helping kids learn at home already

+Be attentive of people around who rely on normal daily routine to live

-kids who have tough home lives that need school services like lunches, etc

-seniors who may not be able to connect to virtual groups, but can still talk on the phone (could do phone Bible study)

Possible regional meetings online?

+Let david.adams@texasbaptists.org know if you'd be interested in a weekly (regional perhaps?) videoconference for sharing and support.

Thanks for participating! It was great to see each of you, and I am praying for you and your ministries. Please call, text, or email if I can help you or put you in contact with others who can help.

Blessings,

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