

**Online Groups Semester  
COVID-19 Response  
Vision Doc  
March 21, 2020**

**Overall Groups Vision:**

God designed us for community, and groups are the primary delivery system for the Find Freedom principle of the spiritual journey. By connecting in Groups, people can take steps towards freedom through experiencing authentic connection and life-changing relationships. Our dream is to have everyone connected in a Group who attends, and have Groups be an on-ramp to those who do not attend our church to connect people to Jesus and our church.

**Bottom line:**

- Provide a special 6-week "Online Groups Semester" to run alongside current Winter Semester

**Goals:**

- As part of our Covid-19 response, each campus provides 2-3 new online Groups for guests who are not connected to take their next step
- Provide an on-ramp into Groups for 6 weeks as a way to support guests growing through this time
- Through having an online Groups semester communicate the vision that taking steps of connection and freedom are still possible
- Provide a way for both promotion and participation in a Group that meets the immediate need

**Broad FAQ's**

**What is the timing for this Online Groups Semester?**

This will be a 6-week semester March 30-May 10.

**What about the Groups who are already meeting for Winter semester?**

The Winter semester will continue through April 26. As with all semesters, Groups can choose to continue to meet past the end of semester (see the Semester Groups Vision Doc).

The Next Steps Team has been working with all existing Group leaders to continue meeting in some way. This has included recommendations on online platforms as well as some Groups are continuing to meet face-to-face if they are under 10 people. We will continue to work with those Groups to keep meeting.

**Who will be leading these online Groups?**

We are asking Groups leaders, such as Coaches and HUB leaders, as well as staff members to lead these Groups. These leaders are already on-boarded, they know the goals of Groups and can quickly step up to lead. The plan is to still host Group leader training for any new leaders every 4<sup>th</sup> weekend and to on-board them for the Summer Semester. New leaders may also be paired with these existing leaders to get training and experience.

**What will they use to meet?**

We recommend Group leaders use the platform they are most comfortable with including but not limited to Google Hangouts, Zoom, FaceTime, Facebook Messenger, Skype - all offer video capabilities.

**How will guests join these Groups?**

Our existing Groups directory has a feature to designate online Groups and the guest search for a Group also allows for a specific search for online Groups. We will leverage those features for guests to join a Group from CedarCreek.tv/Groups.

**How do leaders tell you they are going to lead a Group? Can I lead an online Group?**

We'll provide the registration link to leaders and add these Groups to Rock. And, as a staff member, YES!! We would LOVE to see every staff member leading Groups. Register the Group [HERE](#).

**What content are we recommending?**

Remember Groups can be free market or Bible study based and each semester we ask Group leaders to ESPN – provide encouragement, Scripture, prayer and a next step. For those who choose to do more of a Bible study approach, we would ask that they follow the weekend message or A Time for Prayer content.

This keeps it easy for guests to on-board and keeps the weekend service in the forefront of our minds. In addition, Group leaders can still have “free market” Groups like learning a new skill together (learn to knit together on YouTube anyone?!) and for the ESPN, we would recommend using the weekend message and A Time for Prayer content as well. Groups could also still fill a specific niche like “now working from home” or “moms of kids now doing school at home” and use the weekend message as the basis for their discussion.

**If the national guidelines are met in Groups less than 10, why would make on online semester? Couldn't Groups still meet or start now meeting face-to-face?**

While the national recommendation continues to be meeting in Groups smaller than 10, keeping 6 feet away from each other while meeting is still quite challenging. Hosting an online Group takes the guesswork out of it and creates the most comfortable space for all guests to join during this time.