

HOPE STUDENT MINISTRY TIPS FOR ONLINE SMALL GROUPS

ONLINE DISCUSSION TIPS

- Just like some groups have a rule to put away their cell phones during group to help focus, consider making it a rule to have your camera on and mic on so everyone stays engaged and have less barriers to share.
- You are here to facilitate discussion. The goal is for students to be talking more than leaders. Students who are hesitant to answer deeper questions in person may be even more hesitant on zoom. A couple tips to lead a more natural discussion time online:
 - Give your group the discussion questions ahead of time - in the chat, via GroupMe, screenshare, etc. - so they have time to think through answers.
 - If you have a student(s) who is comfortable sharing, call on them by name to answer a harder question first.
 - If it's a personal question, after you ask the question give a short example from your own life to give students a little time to think of their answer.
 - Have everyone type an answer in the chat, then praise their answers and call on people to share their thoughts on their answer.

ONLINE GAME IDEAS

- Challenge Rock Paper Scissors - Everyone gets in pairs and plays rock paper scissors. Losers have to do a challenge like pour a glass of water on their head, go outside and scream “I AM AMAZING”, etc on screen.
- Scavenger Hunt - Call out random household items, have students run to get them and show on screen.
- Kahoot Trivia - You need to set up an account and to prepare your trivia quiz ahead of time.
- Here are 6 Download Youth Ministry screen share games, you just need to download and learn game rules for each
- Icebreaker Chat: Have students type answers in the chat to random icebreaker questions. Tip: interact with the answers live on screen, have fun with it, and tell them they have to type the first thing that comes to mind and to type the answer in 5 seconds!
 - Favorite food, favorite candy, favorite dessert, middle name, favorite nickname, hobby, favorite sport, favorite color, favorite TV show, favorite music artist, favorite book, favorite movie, where were you born? What were you for last Halloween? Best part about school? Worst part about school? If you could have only ONE superpower, what would you want?

EVEN MORE ONLINE TIPS

- Put your cellphone number in the chat and encourage students to text you their name so you have a way to contact them. Add them to your groups GroupMe.
- Share a screen with a funny Youtube video.
- Watch a Netflix movie together. (Outside of SG)
- It's okay to have your kids in there with you!
- Contact your campus HSM or MSM pastor the MINUTE you feel discouraged or frustrated. We are here for YOU!!
- Keep reaching out! Utilize Instagram, GroupMe, the occasional one-on-one text, even snail mail. Remind your students often that you care for them on an individual level.
- Cue the parents! Let them know that their kids are awesome! Parents only typically hear negative things
- Pray for the Holy Spirit to lead not only your discussions, but to speak to your students outside of small group
- Remember your calling: To love students where they are and encourage them to grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Having fun with your students leads to deeper relationships; remember students don't care what you have to say until they know you care.