

Online Large Groups

Focus on why, who, *then* how • **Determine** roles needed • **Invite** students

It's tempting to start with the what and how. The challenge is to focus on: Why is God inviting us to gather? Who are we trying to reach? How will we do that?

Possible Roles (your group may not need all 10, and some people can play more than one role)

- 1. Tech Host:** Schedules meeting, sends Zoom link to Communications Director, has host permissions, disables waiting room when pre-party begins, manages audio during the call (muting people who forget or join late, removing people if necessary), sets up breakout rooms for discussion
- 2. Communications Director:** Posts on social media, schedules people to go on IG live, sends out emails, etc.
- 3. Prayer:** Prays for speaker, intercedes for the night, prays for those who ask for it after the meeting. This can be an individual or a team.
- 4. Scribe:** Writes discussion questions, puts the questions in the chat, creates Google Doc.
- 5. Pre-Party Leader:** Leads before large group starts, keeps the conversation going, welcomes new arrivals
- 6. Emcee:** Officially starts the meeting, transitions, runs announcements, "spikes" it spiritually at the end, etc.
- 7. Worship Leader:** Leads solo (guitar/voice or keys/voice), needs strong Wi-Fi and decent audio (external mic is best), or shares computer audio to stream a pre-recorded worship song
- 8. PowerPoint:** Preps and runs PowerPoint during the Zoom call, manages the share-screen functions (correctly sharing the specific window and timing it right). This person should have host or co-host permissions on Zoom.
- 9. Speaker:** Preaches the message. It is wise to include a couple moments where you invite people to type something in the chat, or to un-mute and repeat a key phrase (e.g. "Un-mute and repeat 'God is with me!'"). This helps keep participants engaged.
- 10. Administrator:** Creates virtual contact card, data entry, and follow up

Tips to Inviting Students

Identify barriers to students joining

- "Zoomed Out" (screen fatigue)
- Overwhelmed with life
- Lacking motivation
- New rhythms of their current life at home
- Technological issues
- It's unfamiliar
- Desire to "shop" for the best content

Help students overcome those barriers

- Pray for them
- Classic 1-1 follow-up, checking in relationally first
- Encourage students to invite other students
- Give a winsome vision-cast
- Invite a student to be trained to be the speaker
- Utilize Social Media in new ways: build the hype!
- Host a pre-party and an IG Live before it