



Running a
Small Group Bible Study
Online



Hints & Tips for meeting as a church in a digital age

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Introduction

Current restrictions on churches meeting together mean that many of our usual activities as church are not possible. Digital technology gives us the resources to bring together our churches — and our church activities — online. Yet for many of us as leaders, as for many of our congregations, this is all very new. The great news is that this digital technology is mostly free, and very easy to use. This short guide introduces some of the most common tools to run a Bible study online, as well as giving some hints and tips.

Digital Platforms

There are a variety of free digital platforms that can be used for a Small Group Bible Study. The following are the most common:

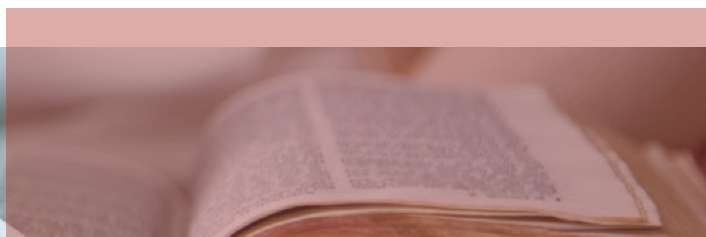
- Zoom**
- WhatsApp**
- Skype**
- Facebook Live**
- Google Hangouts**

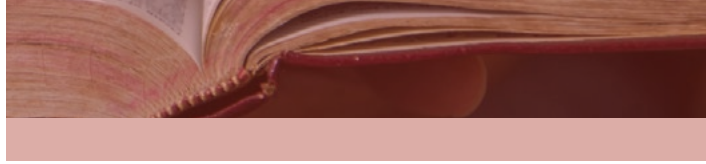
There are lots of great guides online to help understand these different digital platforms and how to use them.

Resources

What about getting study material? The Scottish Bible Society produces a range of Bible Study resources that can be downloaded from our website for free. Called Equip, these resources can be used for individual or small group Bible Study.

<https://scottishbiblesociety.org/equip/>





Hints & Tips

If you are considering running small group Bible studies online, here are some top tips.

Sort out the technology

Find someone in the church who can offer help and assistance to those who are unfamiliar with the technology. Make sure everyone has all the software set up well before you start the study.

Keep it simple

Digital technology allows us to do some amazing things — watch videos, show images, play music. However, it's probably best to start simple, and to keep things simple.

Distribute the material

Have a think about how you will distribute the study to the group. In one church someone takes a photograph of the questions for the week, then texts them to everyone in the group.

Reading together

It's always great to read the passage together as you meet. However, meeting together online can be very tiring. You might want people to read the passage in advance and use your time together to discuss what you have read.

Create space for people to talk

Give space for people to share what God has said to them through His Word. Encourage people to bring any questions they have about the passage. Don't be afraid of silence. As with a discussion in person, it sometimes takes people time to speak. Online, you also need to develop patience in listening and speaking.

Listen for God speaking

Most of all, listen for God speaking.

Though we are living through unprecedented times, God is unchangingly the same, and His Word always brings life, light and hope. We pray this short guide is useful and that you will know God's blessing as you open the Bible together.