

Making the Shift Back to Meeting in Person

Principles to Consider and Questions to Discuss

During the COVID-19 pandemic, many Nextlevel Groups made the transition from meeting in person to meeting online. Despite our uncertainty about the future it is important to discuss as group the value of meeting again in person as soon as possible. These *Principles to Consider* and *Questions to Discuss* are intended to walk your group through the process of discerning *when* and *how* to start meeting again together physically.

PRINCIPLES TO CONSIDER

Fellowship

We are called above all to obey the Lord and His commandments. He has told us in his Word to not fail to meet together, and so whether online or in person, we need to keep meeting consistently. (Hebrews 10:25). Hold *fellowship* as a high priority.

Convictions

There will be differing convictions among the members of your group when it comes to whether or not to meet in person. Additionally the perspectives may vary in your group around the idea of when to begin meeting in person.

1. Encourage the members of your group to take personal time to prayerfully discern how to begin opening their lives again to in-person social interaction.
2. Do not fail to take into consideration one another's consciences and personal convictions (See Romans 14:15;19; 15:2)
 1. Bear with one another as you consider how to begin meeting in person again. (See Ephesians 4:2)
3. Honour the directions from the authorities as a way to honour God (See Romans 13:1)

QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS

Ask these questions *together* as a group:

1. What have been the *positive* and *negative* results of meeting online?

Follow Up: What are some of the primary benefits of meeting in person that have been sacrificed because of the need to meet online?

2. Do we *need* to meet in person to experience and live out the *fellowship* that God has called us to in His word?
3. What is your *personal conviction/approach* to beginning to open your life up again to in-person social interaction? Why?
4. What is our *next step* as a group in the pursuit of meeting again in person?

APPLICATION

Make plans to meet physically at the earliest possible and most appropriate time. The tremendous spiritual, emotional, and relational benefits of doing so are worth pursuing and prioritizing. Be creative about how to begin meeting together physically while still respecting the recommendations of the authorities as well as the convictions of everyone in the group.