

## ATTENDANCE ISSUES DURING COVID?

More than ever, we need community, and we need Jesus. But there are obstacles to having a thriving group. One that often affects groups is when people don't show-up . Whether on Zoom or in person, members will say they'll be there, and then they don't show up. This can be frustrating for you and the other group members. So, what can you do?

### PRAY

I know this may sound like a church answer, but there's a reason. These aren't your groups. They are God's groups, and they are God's people. He loves them more than we ever could. When we invite God in and the Holy Spirit to move, it puts the responsibility for the group where it needs to be.

### TALK ABOUT IT

Elephants don't create safety. You want group time to be as safe as possible. Send an email, GroupMe message, or text letting them know you would like to talk about how to stay together and connected as a group. Have a discussion and ask for suggestions on how to move forward. Do you need to adjust the time, duration, discussion topic, or study? (The [Group Checkpoint Study](#) is a great way to restart your group.)

### REACH OUT

Call and let group members know you are praying for them and miss them. This isn't a guilt call. (Anyone else ever plan a guilt trip?) Be safe and kind and meet them where they are.

### RESPOND WITH GRACE AND SPACE

These are hard times. We've never dealt with a pandemic before. We are all juggling things that we never imagined. Try to meet group members where they are, and let them know you are for them. Gently remind them that we all need community, especially now.

### MEET WITH THOSE WHO SHOW UP

Some of my best groups and best group meetings have been with a committed few. These are the people God has given you for this season. They are your sheep, so shepherd them well. Don't think for a moment that God won't show up with a few people. Remember, these are God's groups. What does he want to do in this season? *"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them"* (Matthew 18:20).

### HAVE A PLAN

Many of the groups that stopped meeting in the spring did not have a plan. They would just schedule a Zoom call and talk or pray. We need to create a space where people feel comfortable. Let's be honest, Zoom is not necessarily the most comfortable format, and social distancing is a little weird. So, generate consistency with a plan. (Read more about [Best Practices](#) and [Fighting Zoom Fatigue](#) on our [Group Leaders website](#). It is all great information, so be sure to check it out!)

### REACH OUT TO YOUR GROUPS DIRECTOR

Let's chat. We know many of you have tried these things. Let's come up with a plan and strategy that will work well for your group.

