



Fall 2020 Small Group Recommendations (Current Groups)

Please note: All groups must follow the recommendations outlined by the Katy First Transition Task Force. Dates for return to campus will be announced when they are determined by the task force.

How to Meet for all Katy First **campus-based** classes and groups:

- In-person On Campus
 - o Meet in Sunday School Rooms. Due to social distancing, each room is limited on the amount of people that can be present. Groups will need to decide how they want fellow group members to be present.
 - o Consider meeting on an alternative day other than Sunday and utilize larger campus spaces – such as the FLC, Fellowship hall, or Pumpkin Patch area.
 - o Consider hybrid-groups (see more below)
 - o All group must follow the recommendations outlined by Katy First Transition Task Force.
- Alternative suggestion to on-campus meetings
 - o Meet solely online. With Training, large group presentations with small discussions groups are possible via Zoom. Training will be provided to make this happen. Online studies can be accessed with Amplify media (see more below).
 - o Divide your group into smaller groups that can be accommodated in homes or backyards.
 - o Consider adding “band” style groups. “Band” meetings are an historic practice of the Methodist movement that had groups of 3-5 people meeting for intentional faith conversations. These groups are designed to be check-ins on the spiritual health of each other. The “curriculum” of these groups is the process of mutual challenge and encouragement to on another. Training will be provided for all who desire to form such groups. **See the additional guide for Band meetings.**

How to Meet for all Katy First **off-campus** classes and groups:

- In-person Off Campus
 - o Meet socially distanced in homes or backyards. Where possible, outdoor meetings are strongly recommended.
 - o If your group cannot socially distance in a meeting space, consider sub-dividing or see alternatives below.
 - o Consider hybrid-groups (see more below)
- Suggested Alternatives
 - o Meet solely online. With Training, large group presentations with small discussions groups are possible via Zoom. Training will be provided to make this happen. Online studies can be accessed with Amplify media.
 - o Divide your group into smaller groups for online interaction or in person meeting.
 - o Consider adding “band” style groups. “Band” meetings are an historic practice of the Methodist movement that had groups of 3-5 people meeting for intentional faith

conversations. These groups are designed to be check-ins on the spiritual health of each other. The “curriculum” of these groups is the process of mutual challenge and encouragement to one another. Training will be provided for all who desire to form such groups. **See the additional guide for Band meetings.**

How to **think small** for your groups:

- Thinking small for your groups allows for two important things:
 - o Smaller groups are *safer environments*. Because of social distancing, larger group meetings are harder to accommodate and pose for riskier health environments.
 - o Smaller groups will allow for *deeper connection and conversation*. More than ever, this is vitally important to the spiritual and emotional health of us all.
- How to think small for groups
 - o Utilize breakout groups on Zoom. This feature allows for persons attending a zoom call to be subdivided into smaller groups during the call. This would allow for better conversation.
 - o Consider developing a “band” – a 3-5 person group that meets for intentional faith conversations. **See the additional guide for Band meetings.**
 - o Consider sub-dividing your current group for a season, so that in-person gatherings are safer.

Consider **Hybrid Groups**

- Hybrid groups
 - o Hybrid groups meet in-person while others are online. Some have found this to be successful and other groups have found this does not create an equitable and healthy small group experience. Be mindful of those who want to meet in person and those who cannot meet in person.
 - o Training will be provided for all groups who would like to explore and implement hybrid group meetings.

How to access **Amplify Media**:

- Go to <https://my.amplifymedia.com/amplify> Use access code: SXYVRP
- After creating your own login, you may use any study listed on the site.
- Online curriculum can be utilized in-person and online.

I can't meet with my existing group at this time. Now what?

- If there are others in your group that cannot meet with your existing group, consider starting a band meeting until you are able to rejoin your group.
- New groups that are starting this fall in September. More information will be out about these groups in the coming weeks.