

substance

Micro-Campus (Zoom Call) Best Practices

Sunday Morning Call Ideas

Purpose: Broad Connection, Inspiration, Prayer (personal virtual foyer experience)

- Need to have a point leader facilitating the call - not a free-for-all. Leader introduces self and gives encouragement/heart for people to get connected/glad you're here! (and gives the schedule for the call... we are gathering for 15 minutes and this is what we are doing....)
- Designate someone (trusted) from your group to share their Substance testimony for 5 min
- Share miracle stories and wins from the past couple of weeks
- Ask people to post prayer requests in the chat (record call so you can go back in and access)
- Icebreaker question where people can leave comments in the chat (breakfast recipe, quarantine routine, coffee vs. tea, etc.)
- Pray for the services and the 30,000+ people that will be watching services
- Invite people to go to www.substancechurch.com for the virtual foyer. Encourage EVERYONE to share on social media! Give practical ways of how to share or stories of what happens through the invite.
- Is there time for breakout sessions?

Wednesday Call Ideas

Purpose: Personal Connection, Fun and Energizing, Prayer/Intimacy - these will take on a variety of forms based on leaders, demographics of group, etc.

- Utilize breakout rooms to get to know other people and have more intimate conversation, one person speaking at a time on a large call is maybe too hard to draw connection. Maybe have 10 minutes of content up front, then break into men/women for the last 20-30 minutes and share prayer requests. Break out people into rooms, each with a designated leader, and give the leaders 3 questions to ask in their breakout room.
- Do a game night: trivia, bingo, Code Names, pictionary, etc.
- Use sermon discussion notes for a connect group style conversation

- Find ways to offer further connection coming out of the larger zoom call (text threads, emails, Houseparty app)

A few of our Micro Campus Leaders & pastoral staff put together some helpful tips on how to navigate a GREAT EXPERIENCE for the Wednesday night zoom calls. Please take a few minutes and read this!

Wednesday Evening:

1. Give people a reason to come (keep coming).

So far we've learned a few things:

- a. Zoom calls can be a little awkward.
- b. The cadence we're doing could start to feel a little rinse & repeat. You don't get the "Feel of the room" on a zoom call for people to just "want to come back."
- c. People who already have their "4-7 friends" may not feel the need to do a micro campus as they already have their sense of community. So we need to keep the mission in front of us. WE NEED CONNECTED PEOPLE TO STAY ON MISSION TO MOVE PEOPLE.
- d. One of our Substance Mom's leaders and a Micro Campus leader, Jonna Meidal wrote an amazing blog and its super helpful and a fun read. She wrote it to our Substance Moms, but ALL of us need to read it. :)
<https://www.substancemoms.com/post/to-zoom-or-not-to-zoom>
- e. What is the mission & purpose:
 - i. Spiritual Growth occurs when we are in: fellowship & accountability (4-7 friends) and have ownership (mission in the local church) and a pastor & leader knows our name. Thus at Substance, as a leader we are always advocating; connectivity, ownership, & invite culture.
 - ii. It takes 8 weeks to start a new habit. We don't want people to backslide and get out of the habit of meeting together (Hebrews 10:24) in this season of Virtual church.
 - iii. People are not taught into maturity, they are invited into maturity and growth.
 - iv. Right now we have 1400 people in micro-campus. That is half of our church. And we have 30K people engaging with our Sunday services right now that are open to God, admitting their loneliness, depression and anxiety and they are wanting to get connected. It has never been easier to engage people with Jesus. The harvest is plentiful and Jesus told us to pray for laborers.
- f. Share Stories & Testimonies

HOW DO WE DO IT?

Have some fun with it/Gimmicks work to get people on the call!

In your reminder emails let people know what the “icebreaker”/first question of the night will be. Some ideas:

1. Hawaiian Shirt night!
2. Photo Contest (Show us your best photo from the quarantine!)
3. Easter Best - Let's all dress up and show off our Easter Best!
4. Bring your Pet to the call!
5. Hat night!
6. Jersey Night (Go Vikes!)
7. Let's all make the same dinner and eat it together! Night

Then run a really tight evening experience (see number 2)

2. Intro the night well/SET EXPECTATIONS.

Just like in Connect Groups, we gotta make sure people know what they just got into and how long it will be. WHATEVER THAT IS, just tee it up well.

Here's our example:

- a. As people are logging in, say a few times: “We're going to take 5 minutes to let everyone get in. Then we'll start at 6:05 and wrap by 7:00 for the live address from PP)
- b. (5 minutes into the call) “Here's what the night is going to look like: We're going to take the first 35 minutes of our evening together to do small group breakout conversations. We'll tee up the question, then take 5 minutes to answer/discuss within your group. Then call you back together, hear the highlights, and tee up the 2nd question. At 6:40 we'll split off for prayer/dig into stuff people need help with, and be done by 7.”
- c. Then do an awesome job of delivering on the “fun/theme” of the night. Starting well will help you build momentum!

Final Schedule:

- 5 minutes - get people in
- 2 minutes - why are we here? What's the night going to look like? Tee up the photo question
- Breakout - 5 minutes - Discuss and share photos and stories
- 7 minutes - recap and result + sermon overview
- Breakout - 7 minutes - first question
- 3 minutes - Come back together
- Breakout - 7 minutes - second question
- 3 minutes: Come back together`
- Breakout - 7 minutes - third question

3. End well and on time. No trailing off. The night needs to have an end and it needs to be strong.

- a. Know what you're promoting for Sunday morning coming up (if anything/just extend the invite)

4. Follow up with new people.