

Dear Connect Group Leaders,

In light of the Coronavirus, much has changed in our lives in the last week. This a challenging time for us all. As a church, we have been committed to doing what we can to best serve you and your family in these times. Based on the President's Coronavirus guidelines, all on campus group activities planned through Sunday March 29 have been canceled and the Quail Athletic Center has been closed. We will not be gathering on campus for Sunday Worship Services or Connect Groups on **Sunday March 22 and 29, and Wednesday March 18 and 25**. We are also canceling other weekly group meetings during the President's 15 day window. When this 15 day time period is over, we will again evaluate gathering for services and groups, understanding that this season may be extended.

In the meantime, we will be gathering online for Worship Services at 9:30 and 11:00 on Sundays. Our student ministry staff is eagerly preparing ways for the students and their families to creatively receive resources, teaching, and group connections online. While we hope this time of an adjusted schedule is brief, the staff is also preparing just in case this season is extended. The student ministry staff has made plans to serve students and families in this way for the next eight to ten weeks.

This makes your role as a Connect Group Leader important as we continue to minister to our students while not being able to meet with them in person. We also know that the church has often thrived and expanded when it was not meeting in large gatherings. Our prayer is that the Lord Jesus would use this time to draw us closer to Him and for those who do not know Him to come to know Him as Lord and Savior. Your role will be crucial in helping our students stay connected and involved despite not being at the church building each week.

We are asking and strongly recommending that you as a connect group leader check in with the students in your connect group via text message or phone call at least once a week. We cannot afford for our students to go eight weeks with little to no contact from their connect group leader. Please work to set aside one day each week to intentionally connect with them.

We are also asking that you use a free resource called ZOOM. ZOOM allows you to host a meeting with your students. You schedule a meeting, send them a link, and then they log on and can see everyone. We would like you to have a ZOOM meeting at least once a week with your students and other connect group leaders. Use that interaction face to face to check in on their daily bible reading, what the Lord is doing in their life, discuss the culture, or simply talk life in general. You can use your connect group lesson if you want to, but it is not required.

Below are instructions on how you can set up a free ZOOM account and the instructions you need to set up your meeting:

To create an account:

Go to [zoom.us](https://zoom.us)

Click the button in the upper right-hand corner that says "sign up, its free".

Type in your email address or sign up with your Google or Facebook account.

It will then send an email with a confirmation link. Click on the link in the email.  
Create account by filling in the information it asks for.  
Skip the “invite colleagues” step.  
Click “go to my account”.

To host a meeting:

In top right corner of zoom.us click on button that says “host a meeting” with video on.  
Click on “join audio by computer”.

It will bring up a video screen. In bottom left corner, make sure you enable video icon so everyone can see you.

On the bottom middle of the screen is the invite button. Click it. Copy invitation.

Go to your email. Copy and paste the invitation into an email and then send that to all of your students.

Students will then join online. You all can talk as a group or use the chat feature to talk via typing. If joining on a phone, students will need to download app, but do not need to create an account.

At the end, make sure you end the meeting by clicking on the “leave meeting” button in the bottom right corner. Make sure you click “end meeting” so students are not left alone.

If you prefer, you could also do the “schedule a meeting” option to schedule it and send invitations in advance. You must go to your account to have this option and at the top click “schedule a meeting” and fill out appropriate information.

In an effort to stay connected with you and your students, we want to encourage them to follow us on Twitter, Instagram, and join our Facebook group QSBC Student Ministry. You can also find more information on <https://qsbc.org/sm-online/>. We have also made the following adjustments to our weekly schedule and activity calendar:

**Every day** – The student ministry will be dropping some type of resource or encouragement every day. On Tuesdays we will release The Student Ministry Briefing which will be a video that features a quick discussion on personal spiritual growth, culture, parenting, and announcements related to our student ministry. ZOOM hangouts will be offered a couple times as a way to connect student ministry staff with students during the week.