

MESSAGE NOTES BEST PRACTICES

If your small group discusses the Sunday messages, we wanted to give you just a few simple “best practices” that will help your discussion be a fruitful one.

THE GOAL

The goal of doing a discussion around the weekly messages is to dive deeper into the sermons prepared by our pastors at West Ridge. Typically, you will find additional Scriptural references that will help you take the discussion further with your group.

PRAYER

If you're in-person or online, it is always important to begin with prayer. You may be waiting for another person to log on, or trying to get the group gathered together after a meal. Starting with prayer will reorient your time together and focus your attention on Jesus. Socializing is beneficial for community to take place, but remember that the social aspect of your group should not take precedence over the discipleship of your group members.

BIBLE

It may seem like a no-brainer, but not every group member will think to bring their Bible to group. Ask every person in your group to not only bring their Bible to group, but also look up every Scripture reference and follow along.

The more your group members are in their own Bible, the more familiar with the text they will become.

QUESTIONS

Ask each member of your group to look over the questions and answer them *before* group time. If they are married, encourage them to discuss the questions with their spouse before the whole group gathers. This will encourage more discussion and hopefully you will have less awkward silence.

SILENCE

Speaking of silence, be prepared for some awkward silences in-between questions. As the leader, try to avoid jumping in to break the silence too quickly. If the participants are consistently coming to group unprepared to

answer the discussion questions, don't be afraid to address it. You are the shepherd of this small flock and we encourage you not to take that lightly. We gather as groups to become more fully devoted followers of Jesus, and this is not a passive activity. Be patient and always lead with grace.