

together in marriage

Running a Together Group Online

Whilst being part of a Together group in-person has its advantages, it is not always possible to do this, if for example, couples have young children or if you live in different areas. We have seen many fruitful Together groups run online and know that you can enjoy the blessings of a virtual group as much as an in-person one.

However, running a Together group online does have some of its own challenges. We've put together some helpful tips on overcoming these:

- We recommend that your group is made up of four or five couples including the group facilitators. This creates a group large enough to not feel awkward but small enough to give everyone the opportunity to contribute if they want to. It is best if each couple share a screen and camera.
- Choose a platform that everyone has access to and make sure it allows you adequate time for your meeting. (eg platforms like whereby have a 30 minute limit which will be insufficient)
- Condense your sessions to no longer than 1 hour 15 mins (as people risk getting 'screen fatigue' longer than this). This will require reading the session beforehand and selecting what you consider to be the most important parts. You need a bit of skill and intuition for this, and the ability to know when to draw conversations to a close and move on to the next part. You can suggest couples review any parts of the session not covered outside of the group sessions.
- If you can, leave a margin of time at the beginning of your online meeting to account for technical difficulties and a bit of chat time so everyone feels relaxed.
- Set up an accompanying WhatsApp group (or email thread) to communicate the Zoom link in advance and send out any reminders of meetings (this is a good idea anyway for running a Together group)
- Send the joining link at least a week in advance (choose a platform everybody has easy access to e.g. Teams or Zoom. If Zoom, make sure your account has adequate time for your meeting).
- For Session 8 ('Fitting together as husbands and wives') you will need to pre-warn couples that they will need to bring an extra device, as there is a separate 'men's and women's time' where you will meet in two separate groups (as opposed to on one screen).
- Use the chat box on your chosen platform to share additional resources and information (don't forget the 'downloads' section on the Together website. There are accompanying pdfs for a number of the sessions).