



THE FOURSQUARE CHURCH

Group Messaging - Platform Options

TeamReach: A free app that must be downloaded; users join via group codes.

- Pros: easy to set up, shared photos are stored (like a calendar or flyer)
- Cons: group chat is either visible to all or disabled; admins cannot view all chats; only available in English.

GroupMe: A free app that must be downloaded; users join via a shareable link.

- Pros: it has a gallery for storing images (like calendar or flyer), media sharing, and polls; the interface is available in multiple languages.
- Cons: anyone can post any question or comment on the group thread, so it can be hard to monitor; message translation is not provided; admins cannot read private messages.

BAND: A free app that must be downloaded; users join via a shareable link or QR code.

- Pros: extremely comprehensive; allows for subgroups such as “High School girls” to target messaging; admins can download chat history and manage all comments, posts, chat settings; interface available in multiple languages.
- Cons: message translation not provided

Remind: A text platform that can be used with or without downloading the free app; used widely in education.

- Pros: interface is available in multiple languages; message translation available; no app needed to get announcements -- an app is only needed for direct messaging; admins can set up different groups to receive specific announcements.
- Cons: admins can only access private chats by requesting access (not automatically able to see all communication); limits on text length.

Summary:

If you're looking for an easy way to just send announcements and/or update-type messages, check out **Remind**.

If you're looking for a great platform that could be used across your ministry with students and parents, check out **BAND**. While no group messaging platform is perfect, we suggest **BAND** because of the higher level of control that it allows for admins.