COMMUNICATIONS – HOW TO JOIN OUR TEXTING THREAD, SIGNAL, FOR iPhone & Android

We have reviewed different avenues to easily, safely, quickly and efficiently get in touch with each other and share information. We have previously had a texting thread on our phones (using our phone texting) but this method is limited to 20 individuals, therefore the different number of threads. Also, our phone texting is not private, there is no guarantee that the phone companies won't share our texts. Safety and privacy are issues on phone texting.

SIGNAL is an app available for both iPhone and Android users. SIGNAL is a free messaging app that uses your phone number only and provides end-to-end encryption to keep your messages private.   When you send a message, the only people who can see that message are the recipients – not even the company that runs SIGNAL can see what you send. The most important reason people choose SIGNAL is the end-to-end encryption.

How to install SIGNAL APP - iPhone

1. Benefits
    1. End-to-end encryption
    2. Allows for up to 1000 individuals per thread
    3. Secure and private, no third party sharing
    4. Free App
2. Recipe to install
    1. Go to Signal.org/install
    2. Click "Get"
    3. Click on "Install"
    4. The email that is on my phone came up
    5. It asked for the password of my Apple ID
    6. Click on "Open"
    7. The agreement comes up for terms and privacy
        1. (Of course, always a lot to read; your choice)
        2. Click on Continue
    8. Allow permissions
        1. Notifications
            1. This is to let you know of new messages; up to you if you want these or not
        2. Contacts?
            1. This is to allow Signal to see your contacts—the system will let you know who is on Signal
            2. I clicked on "Ok" so that I could begin using Signal
    9. Phone number
        1. They ask if this is correct
    10. Verification code
        1. If the phone is correct they request to send a verification code to your phone
        2. If okay, once you receive the code, you enter it.
    11. PIN
        1. Here you are asked to create a PIN (Personal Identification Number).
        2. You will need to put this in twice.
        3. It is important to note this for security, but also because Signal will periodically ask for it, as if to train us to remember it.
    12. Profile
        1. Your name
    13. Connect to other devices
        1. Up to you
    14. Settings
        1. Click on your initials in the upper left corner to access Setting.
    15. Select a person or a group to "chat"
        1. Click on the little square with a pencil
    16. To join Freedom Focus,
        1. search for Freedom Focus and request to be added.

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How to install SIGNAL APP – Android (must be running android 4.4 or later)

1. Benefits – See above
2. Recipe to Install
    1. Go to Google Play Store and find SIGNAL APP – icon is blue background with a white word bubble
    2. Click on Open
    3. Click on Install
    4. Go through Terms and Conditions List – give permission. That is how you can include your contacts on SIGNAL.
    5. NOTE: you must have a contact in your Contact List in order to allow them onto your SIGNAL. i.e. the members on Freedom Focus need to be entered into your contact list on your phone, then they will be carried over to SIGNAL.
    6. Enter your phone number
    7. Enter your user profile, as much or as little as you want
    8. Create your PIN (at least 4 digits), remember it, occasionally SIGNAL asks you for it, as a way to check you and help you remember it. You do not need it to open the app
    9. To enter our Freedom Focus Group on SIGNAL
        1. Search for Freedom Focus and request to be added.
    10. Enjoy SIGNAL!!