

Ways Youth Workers Can Remotely Support/ Connect/ Engage with Youth

(during times of social distancing, actual quarantine, illness, school closures, weather-closures, anytime!)

Special thanks to the [Presbyterian Youth Workers' Association](#) and [Big Ideas in Youth Ministry](#) Communities for helping to compile this list

PLEASE HELP OTHERS BY SHARING YOUR IDEAS. ADD THEM BELOW!

- Host a 15 minute Instagram Live stream once or twice a week where you invite a youth leader to read a meditation or passage of Scripture for youth to reflect on. Then post the actual script or passage on an Instagram post in case those who missed want to participate.
- Use video chat apps (Zoom, etc.) to hold remote youth group meetings, Sunday School
- Start an electronic prayer chain where youth in your church are given email addresses to several members of the congregation and asked to send them an email prayer (or an email letting them know they are being prayed for)
- Create an online Scavenger Hunt related to the Bible, your church, or your denomination, and have youth send you their answers when they find them. Winners could be posted in a Facebook group or some other online sourced
- (If your group is smaller) Create a GroupMe for your youth and let youth know it's a safe space to express any concerns, ask questions, etc. Make sure there is at least one other adult in the group (another Advisor, etc.)
- Storytelling Bible Study. So many great children's books about faith/theology that speak to youth. You could create a movie/video using picture and voice over. (I do this with my music director who also adds piano accompaniment. If you choose the right book- I think storytelling could be a great inter generational Bible study that would work for children or teens. You could have a range of questions. Stories that I love at the moment- When God Made You and When God Made Light by Matthew Paul Turner, God's Dream by Arch Bishop Desmond Tutu, The Story of And (Sandy Eisenberg Sasso), you could do secular well loved Children's Books, The Lorax by Dr. Seuss is one that comes to mind. A great book resource is Storypath.upsem.edu
- Also great book, Red; a Crayon's Story, by Michael Hall
- You could make a Kahoot about a variety of subjects, inviting all ages to play. Perhaps trivia about your church, bible stories, or a mix. Youth use Kahoot! at school.
- Post items for a scavenger hunt at home. The items help tell a bible story.
- Book Club for the next Month. Just a fun one to distract anxious youth and have it on ZOOM. If you want a spiritual one-great. Your choice!
- Set up Zoom meetings for prayer, support, and laughter so that you can reach out to Youth and members who might be feeling isolated. Send the times that you will be "online" to the church and then we will see who joins. Hopefully, it will help all stay connected. This Sunday night we will be "online" to play the Psych app games with anyone.
- Pair a youth up with a grandmotherly/ grandfatherly type in your congregation (who may also be feeling isolated during this time). Give them a list of seven questions/ prompts. Ideas might be: *Tell about a significant event in your life. Why is the church important to you? Tell me about a time you felt scared and how you dealt with it. What do you think is*

one of the most important stories in the Bible? Tell me about one hope you have for the future. Who is someone you think lives their faith and why? Tell me about one of the happiest days of your life. Each day for seven days, ask each person to pick one question (or choose their own) and email it to the other person. They should reply by email each day to their partner's question, in as many words as they choose. Fun way to connect generations during this time of isolation!

- Give youth an address list (labeled envelopes, stamps, etc) and ask them to write letters to older adults in the church who will need some cheering up. Include some writing prompts or ideas for art, jokes, bible passages, etc.
- "5 Ways to Help Teens Manage Anxiety About the Coronavirus" from the New York Times:
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/11/well/family/coronavirus-teenagers-anxiety.html?fbclid=IwAR3lUnKYNm2oHaJsqCioKkx9FMm20iOuOn1QBtMov8KPLG9DCT17sY8-gdQ>
- "Doing Youth Ministry During a Pandemic" from Fuller Youth Institute:
https://fulleryouthinstitute.org/blog/doing-youth-ministry-during-a-pandemic?fbclid=IwAR37G8cTHbbKJXrshyCxApz7YUILLaSj0Wj3vgSn1lpUVqntpZHPtiwr_MGQ
- If you are looking for a resource for youth to have with their families while they have a little bit more time the next month consider getting some word teasers. Invite your recently returned college students to help you drop a box at their homes with a note for each family to enjoy this time together!
http://www.bigideasym.com/store/c1/Featured_Products.html
- [Clergy & Spiritual Communal Responses to Covid-19](#) Facebook Group
- College student panel by zoom. Invite seniors to hear from college students about advice for the first month of college. Same panel can do an all youth zoom on things I wish I knew. College students are home too, let's get them connected.
- Let's not add too much to their lives.
- Invite them to practice sabbath.
- Cool option for a zoom/google devotional with a macro view. from NASA Facebook page. "You are made of star stuff. Hydrogen, helium, nitrogen – these and other elements were formed in the stars and they make up our bodies. The next time you gaze at the night sky, remember: you are star material. ✨ Explore more beautiful space imagery: <https://go.nasa.gov/2wWDCBO>"
- Share a weekly game they can play with their family.
- Meal time suggestions: Give ideas to parents and youth for conversation topics not related to the virus. Bring a picture from their phone of their favorite family memory over dinner. Give a toast to a different person in the family each night of the week. Share a moment in your life when you laughed the hardest.
- Faith Practices: This is a great time to cultivate a faith practice during Lent. Send out suggestions they try one a week. Gratitude lists as a family. Leave a notebook in one spot in the house and everyone write 3-5 things they are grateful for and do not repeat. Share them at dinner each night or use them as a prayer at night before the family goes to bed. Send details for the awareness examen. Have them walk through as a family or with a friend each day.
- https://rowsofsharon.com/2020/03/13/keeping-faith-at-home-with-children/?fbclid=IwAR3050S2PXEr6CL_zN_KPjBJh6cmPuGlbSWW9hH90AaFBS4t9VmekNGkLqM
- While on Zoom or other video conferencing, do a scavenger hunt with the youth. One person calls out an item you might find in your home (wooden spoon, tv remote, soccer

ball, etc.) and the first person to show the item on the screen gets the point.--LOVE THIS IDEA!

- Set up the Netflix Party chrome extension to watch a movie together as a group www.Netflixparty.com
- Illustrated Ministry is offering free weekly resources for youth during the COVID-19 pandemic https://www.illustratedministry.com/flattenthecurve?fbclid=IwAR3t8KPpmpH4Yg1SynKM c4QynmP4_VDvHQaZGM97rK7jFXgfJsplgrJxLYc
- Instagram Live “Mini Montreat”- Devotion (mini keynote), Energizer, Game/Activity idea(s) to do at home, question for youth to discuss with their families (small groups)
- Fun and goofy video series with youth leaders. We are doing a short video series about being under quarantine, walking through the 5 stages of grief in a funny way. Bringing something fun and goofy in times of stress.
- Houseparty app! Group video calls with built-in games
- We had a “virtual” youth group meeting on Google Meet. Everyone shared what they were up to, how they were feeling, and any concerns they had. We then just “chatted” for a bit. They really seemed to miss just talking about whatever. We read a quick devotional about hope and then prayed. Next week we’re doing a pet show and tell where they will introduce everyone to their pets!
- Virtual Bingo. Provide students with Bingo cards in the Zoom chat box, then use a bingo call generator. <https://bingobaker.com/>
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http://ciy-downloads.s3.amazonaws.com/CIY_Zoom_Games.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3SXbRL_TpTQYf3enLuF3LiWkakvRSA2d-Sq-kLXUABFPCjxJ8sirUkH0E

- During virtual youth group, we are having a conversation on grieving. Great article https://www.messymarvelous.com/year-2020-skill-4-feel-name-and-tame-the-grief/?mc_cid=757a4f78e5&mc_eid=25e0db4151
- Also doing a mid-week bible study that could continue to carry on about hope in a time of crisis: <https://www.bible.com/reading-plans/18911-discovering-hope-during-catastrophe-25-day-challen/day/1>