

Online services

General points about the resources

Hymns and songs

Play recordings of hymns and songs at different churches, as well as recording musicians and vocalists from your own church, or individuals or family groups performing live. Depending on the rhythm of the service, you could encourage members of your congregation to prayerfully listen to the music, or to join in singing at home.

Readings and prayers

Use different voices, and open up participation to those in your congregation who would be nervous to stand up in church but who don't mind being recorded, or speaking prayers to a computer screen if your service is live online.

Prayers

Use responses within the prayers to encourage participation from the congregation at home (whether live or recorded). Remember to make sure that you make it clear what the response is at the beginning of the prayers. Many platforms allow you to add text to the screen whether your service is live or recorded.

Picture pointers

Use the images and questions on screen as people gather for the online or recorded service to introduce the theme. Or use it as part of your sermon to break up your service and introduce something other than people talking to camera.

Activities

Distribute templates in advance via Church website or FB page, so that your congregation can participate in activities at home.

Drama or mime

Record households or socially distanced groups, or feature them in live services in real time.

Live your faith sheet

Use the Live your faith sheet to encourage your Church community to continue to engage online, on social media, during the week ahead, with the various activities that they have taken part in during the service.

6-12 September – Held together

Gather

All-age introduction – advance preparation of participants from the congregation who already have LEGO™ in their houses; it doesn't have to be the same model in every household; take photos of the models after they are completed and feature on Church website or FB page; alternatively, a leader/volunteer could demonstrate this

Open the Word

Present the OT – use alternative recordings of Hymns and songs; mute everyone except the leader and backing track; ask people to think about images that they could collect in advance, then show photos online

Present the Gospel – encourage people at home to make up their own actions as they listen to the story; alternatively one household could have prepared the mime

Explore & respond

All-age conversation – use the Chat function to encourage your congregation to answer questions

A simple worship activity – could be done as a household Community tree – put leaf templates online prior to service, and encourage people to fill in their quality; after the service you could ask people to send you pictures of their leaves

More than one perspective – could be done in household groups or demonstrated by a leader

Spread the prayers – ask your congregation to think about local support groups; in live worship use the Chat function to decide who is going to pray for the different groups; for recorded worship: encourage your congregation to choose a group to pray for during the coming week, and upload a prayer diary incorporating these prayers to your Church website or FB page

For very young children

Storytelling – model the actions before you start

Play – use play figures/buildings/cardboard boxes with buildings drawn on them

Create – everyone at home decorates strips of paper, then make a paper chain for the household – you could use the prayer after the chain is made

Praise – show a video of a burning candle, or have one showing on your screen as you play the music

13-19 September

Gather

All-age introduction – encourage people to use the Chat function to answer some of the questions; you could also ask households to mime an Olympic sport and others guess what it is (for a recorded service, you could ask people to record themselves miming Olympic sports)

Open the Word

Present the OT – the various parts can be shared out between participants; or recorded in advance by one household

Present the Gospel – could be prepared and presented by one household group; or, for those with the technological expertise might achieve the desired effect it through some video ‘trickery’

Explore & respond

A simple worship activity – encourage your congregation to write or draw their contribution and replace shredding with ripping the paper up at home

God’s mercy – listen to the hymn then use a variety of voices from one or several households to say the words

Stones – ask people to find a stone or other suitable household object and use the activity at home

Forgiveness – households could make their own collage; or contribute ideas for stories that the leader adds to a document via screenshare

For very young children

Storytelling – no adaptation needed

Play – use a damp cloth and some small household objects to wipe clean

Create – there are apps for scratch art which could be used – better to suggest families explore this in their own time

Praise – a strip of fabric or paper could also be used

Pray – shake hands with other family members while saying prayer

FROM 20 SEPTEMBER TO 15 NOVEMBER

From 20 September, we focus on passages from two of Paul’s letters: Philippians (20 Sep – 4 Oct) and 1 Thessalonians (18 Oct – 15 Nov). The weekly **Paul’s world sheet** in combination with the activities in Explore & respond section provide plenty for your online session. Download the sheets from the Open the Word section of the week’s resources; you could send all participants a copy of the **Paul’s world sheet**. Don’t forget, there are resources to introduce Paul on the website. You could send out or show the [poster about Paul](#), or show the [short animation](#). You can read about life in [Philippi](#) and [Thessalonica](#) in two articles – do share the pdfs.

20-26 September

You could send out the **Paul’s world sheet** in advance.

Gather

All-age introduction – a household could be prompted to demonstrate this live, or record it to be shown

Open the Word

Present the NT – could be prepared and presented by one household group; or Timothy (as scribe) might be ‘imagined’

Explore & respond

A simple worship activity – send the template out in advance

Stand your ground – everyone can be invited to contribute ideas; households can have their own tug of war, or one household can demonstrate as suggestions are accepted

Threads of encouragement – could be done at home if kit is available, or use thin strips of paper

Choosing hats – either ask people to have hats ready or draw pictures of hats to hold up; you could put people into chat rooms for them to share ideas

For very young children

Storytelling – no adaptation needed

Play – you could suggest this as an activity for the week

Create – encourage families to make a wiggly walking trail on the floor (using clothes/towels or soft toys) that they then walk down while they pray

Praise – no adaptation needed

Pray – name the children while they’re all walking on the wiggly path

27 September – 3 October

You could send out the **Paul’s world sheet** in advance.

Gather

All-age introduction – no adaptation needed

Open the Word

Present the NT – this would need to be a demonstration and ‘thought’ experiment

Explore & respond

A simple worship activity – screen share a collage of images

Random – screen share the clip; households could work together, or suggestions could be shared via Chat

So unfair! – if you can organise it, you could use breakout rooms on video conferencing platforms to make the groups; or individuals in households consider their responses and share with their household or the whole group

One simple thing – send out the template, or show it and people can copy it

For very young children

Storytelling – screen share a postcard you've prepared

Play – demonstrate looking after a doll/teddy; perhaps he/she has fallen and hurt their knee; what would help?

Children can look after their own toy, with a plaster/bandage or strip of cloth/paper

Create – you could suggest this as an activity to do together at home during the week

Praise – no adaptation needed

Pray – ask the children to make a heart shape with their hands

4-10 October

You could send out the **Paul's world sheet** in advance.

Gather

All-age introduction – you could prepare an image of a route with stops and screen share it, then have a discussion together

Open the Word

Present the NT – screen share the images or clip

Explore & respond

A simple worship activity – no adaptation needed

If the hat fits – you could ask people to have hats ready, or just model some yourself

20 questions – households work together; sticky notes can be replaced by slips of paper held up away from the person who has to guess

A different decision – you could do this as a whole group discussion, providing examples, if not everyone has access to the internet

For very young children

Storytelling – no adaptation needed

Play – suggest simple, timed challenges, e.g. standing on one leg and counting to 10, touching head, shoulders, knees toes and back as quickly as they can, hopping for five seconds

Create – use packaging and other materials to make a medal

Praise – use a ribbon/ strip of fabric or paper

Pray – ask children to make a crown with their hands by the sides of their head while they pray

11-17 October

You could send out the **Paul's world sheet** in advance.

Gather

All-age introduction – you could screen share images or give a few minutes for people to find their own

Open the Word

Present the NT – no adaptation needed

Explore & respond

A simple worship activity – the discussion can work all together, in households or using breakout rooms; you could suggest the outdoor activity for during the week

What's on your mind – scrap bits and pieces/packaging could be used instead of craft materials

Words of wisdom – using break out rooms would enable this

Dear me – ask people to put their letters away somewhere at home, and send a reminder to everyone to re-read them

For very young children

Storytelling – no adaptation needed

Play – you could suggest making jigsaws as an activity for the family during the week

Create – share a playdough recipe for parents/carers to prepare in advance, or invite children to draw about something that worries them

Praise – you could ask the children to curl up in a ball and then uncurl suddenly, or ask parents/carers to have a blanket/duvet ready

Pray – children hold their playdough model/drawing towards the camera, and ask God to help them with this worry. They could scrunch up the model/drawing afterward if they want.

18-24 October

We move to nuggets from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians today. You can read an article about life in [Thessalonica](#).

You could send out the **Paul's world sheet** in advance.

Gather

All-age introduction – leaders stand in front of their cameras so that their teams can copy exactly what they do

Open the Word

Present the NT – needs no adaptation, you could send the script out to readers in advance, or screen share it

Explore & respond

A simple worship activity – screen share quotes or put them in Chat

Self-portrait – no adaptation needed

Copy me – pair people up online if they're at home alone

Imitation game – no adaptation needed

For very young children

Storytelling – each child could cup their hands around their mouths and call out 'Good news!' and 'Jesus!' when

the words Good news and Jesus are said; you could use a puppet/sock puppet/teddy to model calling out

Play – no adaptation needed

Create – set up your screen so that you can draw simple pictures for the children to copy, or do it line by line and hold up your paper to the camera; or ask parents/carers to draw something simple and see if the child can copy

Praise – children could dance to music

Pray – no adaptation needed

25-31 October

You could send out the **Paul's world sheet** in advance.

Gather

All-age introduction – you could demonstrate this, or ask someone else to practise and prepare it beforehand

Open the Word

Present the NT – screen share headlines and ask two volunteers to read out alternate ones

Explore & respond

A simple worship activity – you could screen share an image of a white carnation

Slogan quiz – no adaptation needed

Craftivism – you could screen share information, and perhaps ask people to follow up afterwards

Give them strength – no adaptation needed, though using breakout rooms, or discussion among households will enable more people to contribute

For very young children

Storytelling – no adaptation needed

Play – use soft and hard household objects/toys

Create – recycle packaging and other materials

Praise – use the soft and hard household objects/toys and pass them to family members present

Pray – invite each child to stand up or to come to the camera as you pray for them