

ONLINE FAITH FORMATION WITH CHILDREN

A Simple Outline for a Faith-Based Children's Program

So you have decided to host an Online Children's Church/Sunday School/Sunday Club and you have picked your digital platform, perhaps it is Zoom. You have learned how to use it and what safeguards need to be in place to engage with the children in your community of faith.

So now what?

Many of us will create or adapt existing curriculum to suit our context and particular to our group of children. If you were using a specific curriculum, please go online and see what they have made available to you for free in this time of social distancing. Here is a suggested outline of your time together with some ideas and places to find content.

Hear. Tell the Story

- Tell the bible story in the Godly Play style of storytelling.
- Buy a digital copy of a bible and share your screen with the group gathered and read the story
- Find a YouTube video of someone reading the bible story
- Tell the story in your own words and use everyday items to help illustrate the story, you can find inspiration from Dollar Store Sermons from Pastor John Stevens

Explore the Story

- Share a children's storybook that connects in some way to the bible story. You could buy a digital copy of it and share it online or read it, if you have a copy.
- Share a youtube video illustrating a connection to the bible story
- Connect, bring to life, illustrate some of the themes of the biblical story to objects found at home, you can find some great ideas online at [Worshiping with Children](#)

Gather and Connect

Once everyone is gathered light the Christ Candle and centre the group with your usual words and/or actions Invite a check in – from each child. This can be simply asking them for a high and low from their life, something they are happy about and something that they are sad or angry about.

Engage

You can ask four simple wondering questions that come from Godly Play:

- I wonder what you liked best about this story?
- I wonder what part of this story is the most important?
- I wonder what part of this story is about you or where you are in the story?
- I wonder what part of the story we can take out and still have all the story we need?

Pray

Take time to pray for each other's highs and lows.

Bless

Take the time to say a personal good bye and blessing to each child before they leave.