

# WEBINAR INFO: KIDS AND YOUTH MINISTRY



## How to use on-line tools with kids and youth ministry

- Zoom
  - o Stable platform
  - o By invitation only (must have a specific link to join)
  - o Many options like breakout rooms, chat box, microphone/video mute, call only for those without computer access,
  - o Great for Sunday School or Children's Worship, time to connect, games, youth group, and more.
- Facebook - Live and Messenger Video
  - o Facebook Messenger has a children (under 13) option.
  - o Facebook groups can be closed and require permission to join.
- Google Hangouts is another option for invitation only groups. The platform is less stable than other options. Can be used for video, calls, and messaging.
- Best Practices & Protection Policies
  - o Use platforms that allow you to control who can gain access.
  - o No one should interact with youth or children online who are not approved to interact with them at your church in person.
  - o <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/safe-sanctuaries-video-healthy-social-media-guidelines>

## How to do online ministry with kids & youth

- Adapting curriculum/Lesson plans
  - o Pick out the pieces you need and be prepared to present them in a different way.
    - ♦ Use chat features to ask questions
    - ♦ Do not forget to include visuals and videos (share screen options)
- Classroom Management/Expectations
  - o Establish rules/guidelines for your virtual classroom
    - ♦ Raise your hand. Please do not shout to get attention.
    - ♦ We respect each other by staying present and not doing other things online.

- ♦ Use the chat option if you need to ask a question rather than talking over each other.
- ♦ Please do not invite people without permission or take pictures of the group without asking.
- o The mute button is your friend
  - ♦ Set up the meeting where everyone is muted upon entry.
- **Kids Ministry**
  - o Keep it short
  - o If you had a routine or rhythm in person, try to maintain a similar rhythm online
  - o Make it interactive with different ways of learning
  - o Keep it manageable, try not to overwhelm parents with more noise
  - o Encourage families to find ways to reach out and share God's love from home (sidewalk chalk, "bear hunt", sending cards, calling or video chat, etc.)
- **Youth Group**
  - o Have a set curriculum or purpose every time you meet.
  - o It does not always need to be serious.
- **Using games**
  - o Convert ice breakers to an online format.
  - o Send prizes to the winners via mail.
- **Information about copyright, faith playlists for families and more can be found here:**  
<https://michiganumc.org/resources/childrens-ministry-tool-box/faith-family-playlists/>

### **Connect with us at:**

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