

BEING CHURCH

WHEN WE'RE NOT TOGETHER

When we're not able to meet face-to-face, we don't stop being part of God's family the Church. Hebrews 10:25 advises: "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another..." So how can we do that when we can't be face-to-face?

VIDEO CHAT

There are so many ways to connect through technology. You can arrange a group video chat through *Whatsapp*, *Skype*, *Zoom* or *Facebook Messenger*. Pray for each other, share what you're learning, enjoy being together. If you're not tech-savvy, ask someone to help you set up a network with your church friends.



PHONE A FRIEND

Even those who won't have access to smartphone apps should be able to access a phone. Make a special effort to stay connected and reach out to one another so as no one feels isolated or lonely.

BOOK CLUB Pick a book and read it together with some friends. Check in with one another each week and discuss what you've learned. You could read Richard Foster's *A Celebration of Discipline*, Pete Grieg's *Dirty Glory* or Rachel Held Evans's *Inspired*.

FAMILY TIME

If you live with other people now is the perfect time to develop some holy habits like encouraging scriptures each morning or "thank you God" prayers going to bed. You could read a family Bible together or use the *Bible for Kids* app. Get creative with prayers: colouring in, making paper chains.

PRAYER & WORSHIP

Find time and space to praise God. Be in nature or look out your window. Listen to worship music on CD or a YouTube or Spotify playlist. You could do this during your usual gathering time so you'll be joining in with the rest of your church family.

TUNE IN

Is your church, or a church local to you, making services available online? Check Facebook and local church websites.

LEARN This could be the perfect time to go deeper into God's word. *bibleproject.com* hosts beautiful animated videos exploring the themes and books of the Bible. Each video has extra reading materials attached.

SERVE

Get creative in serving God and loving your neighbours. Phone a relative or neighbour and ask what you can do to serve them. Help the most vulnerable by donating to our local food bank. Continue to give to your church through standing order. Do whatever you're able to do.

