Kids Online Ministry: It's Not as Difficult as You Think

For most of 2020, many of us weren't leaving our homes as much. We weren't visiting friends, going to school, or even going to park without restrictions. A lot has changed and is still changing. It's not always easy to process why—especially when you're a kid.

How can we as a church show up?

We need to step away, for a moment, and consider the bigger picture. Our relationship with Jesus, and being a part of the church, isn't intended to squeeze inside an hour on Sunday. So our content and our resources shouldn't either.

Consider taking your content and spreading it throughout the week. You don't have to eliminate your family experience on the weekends but give families the ideas and resources to integrate their faith throughout the week too.

Programming Online Kids Ministry

Just like you're taking adult services online, pre-elementary and elementary-aged children can also have online experiences. You can take pieces of your lessons, and make them digital. Tell a story, sing a song, it doesn't have to be done perfectly.

If you're not a large church with a video team and the ability to mass-produce professional online experiences, we have great news. YOU DON'T HAVE TO. You probably know the names of each of the kids in your ministry, you can

facetime them (with parents' permission of course). You can hold a zoom call for everyone at once, and connect with them as one group. You can write letters back and forth. Kids love snail mail! Don't feel like you have to put all your eggs in the online experience, there are so many ways to continue the **purpose** of your ministry.

If you do want an online experience without having to make one yourself, the LifeKids team from LifeChurch is creating full-length video services that include interactive elements, pauses, and worship that can be streamed online. (These experiences will be relevant for children from ages two through sixth grade.)

These videos have no Life.Church branding and use license-free music. CLICK HERE for LifeKids resources.

Resourcing Parents for Online Church

We need to shift our focus from re-creating the weekend experience (which so much consists of interacting with other same-age kids) and resourcing parents to include their kids.

Consider creating a Facebook group for your Kids Ministry to post videos, share updates, and ask questions.

One of the biggest ways you can show up with your families is by providing practical and useful resources for parents.

So many parents are trying to balance working from home, being a teacher, and being a parent. It's really tough.

Step into their world by becoming a trusted source for quality and helpful information. Ask your parents what they need and either find or create resources to help them during this time. Take the time you would spend preparing rooms or creating lessons and funnel that energy toward resourcing parents.

Here are some ideas of things you can do to resource and equip them through the week:

- Post a family challenge: Write letters to healthcare workers you know personally, and deliver or mail them. We are called to encourage and love one another.
- Post a family challenge: Go for a walk with sidewalk chalk and draw pictures. You can't walk by a chalk drawing and not smile. Bringing joy to someone IS BEING Jesus.
- Homeschooling Tips like this one When Homeschooling is Your Temporary New Reality! – Letty Rising
- Mo Williams (Author of 'Don't let the pigeon drive the bus') is hosting a Youtube Live, every day 1 1pm called "Doodling with a friend" Doodling With a Friend – Mo Williams
- The Cincinnati Zoo is offering videos of the zoo and different animals with facts about them every day at 3pm https://www.facebook.com/cincinnatizoo/
- Share a pinterest board with activity ideas like this one: https://www.pinterest.com/lizziec21/last-friday/spring-fever/
- Share helpful articles for navigating a pandemic with kids like this one: Talking to Kids About the Coronavirus
- Let them know about The Bible App For Kids