

## Resource guide for remote Sunday School

### Overview

For Sunday Schools that aren't able to hold in-person sessions, we recommend offering classes over the phone or a videoconferencing platform. Talk to your students and their parents to find what works best for everyone. You may want to start with the simplest solution and then find ways to improve the experience as you go along.

### Choosing your options

- The simplest way to offer remote Sunday School classes is to simply have the teacher call the students and do the class over the phone. The teacher can act as the superintendent and can walk the class through the opening and closing exercises. The superintendent could still choose the hymns and share them with the teachers or each class could choose their own hymns.
- Other options:
  - If your church uses a conference call or video conferencing platform, each class could use it to meet and have Sunday School together. If your church just has one account, the classes would each need to meet separately at different times. This would allow everyone to attend church together (including teachers and students). In this approach, the teacher would act as the superintendent.
  - Many video and phone conferencing platforms allow for breakout groups. So a Sunday School could meet all together for the opening exercises and closing exercises, and then be put into smaller breakout groups for their classes. We have detailed instructions for Zoom breakouts on this [page](#).
- [Here](#) is a list of some of the conference call and videoconferencing options available.

### Setting up and getting the word out

- **Be in close touch with the parents** of the students in your Sunday School. Talk to them about how you are offering Sunday School and be open to their input. It is important that parents are comfortable with the process.
- Be thoughtful and prayerful about the security and safeguards already in place for the children of your Sunday School and try to mimic those in the remote environment. For example, how would you process new students into your Sunday School normally? What types of conversations would you have with new parents?
- Make sure the students and their parents in your congregation know about your remote Sunday School and how to access it.
- Consider ways to let your community know that you are offering classes online and how they can enroll children in your Sunday School. This could include posting a sign on your church door with a contact number or email or posting information on how kids can enroll in the remote Sunday School on your website. To download poster templates please go [here](#).

- Be in touch with The Mother Church so we can add your information to the [listing of remote services and classes](#) by emailing [directory@csps.com](mailto:directory@csps.com).

### **Tips for teachers/superintendents**

- The sound quality will be better if everyone uses headphones with a built-in mic.
- If using video conferencing, make sure you are in a place with good lighting. Position your camera so people can see you easily.
- Do a test run with the technology you have chosen to ensure you understand the functionality and how each component of the Sunday School experience will work in a remote environment.
- Have an initial meeting with the students via the technology you have chosen to make sure they are able to connect and understand the functionality as well.
- Make sure students know how to mute and unmute themselves. Make sure you know how to mute the participants in case of unwanted background noise.
- Teachers might also want to consider ways of connecting with their students during the week. They might want to have virtual meetings to read the Bible Lesson together or continue discussions they've been having in their classes.

### **Hymns and music**

- If you don't have a way to play music during the class, you could always simply choose to read the hymns, perhaps even having each student read a different verse.
- Trying to sing or say the Lord's Prayer together with everyone unmuted is not advisable because of the lag time with the sound. So people can mute themselves when singing or have only one person at a time unmuted for the parts that are said in unison.
- If you are using Zoom and are just using recorded music on your computer or device, you can improve sound quality if you click "share screen" and then "share computer audio" before playing the music.
- If you are playing live music through Zoom (accompaniment for the hymns etc.), for the best sound quality please follow these [directions](#).
- You can find hymn recordings and PDFs of the music [here](#). If you open the PDFs on Adobe Acrobat Reader it will display a hymn that has two pages, side to side (vs. needing to scroll up and down).

### **Tips for Teaching:**

- Keep it simple. Plan your class prayerfully like you would when your students were present with you in your Sunday School.
- Just like in your physical Sunday School it is wise to be prepared with the items you will need to teach your class remotely.
- Most video conferencing solutions have ways to share your screen so you can share visuals, play videos, etc. You can also use your computer's camera to show students objects or other visual aids to help illustrate a point.
- Many video conferencing tools have a chat function at the bottom of the screen. You can use this feature to type references you might want the student to look up, e.g. John 1:3.

- Some teachers have found it helpful to build a slideshow presentation to share during class with quotes that will be discussed.
- Remember active participation is essential. All students learn best when they are actively engaged. Teachers are not filling empty vessels, they are giving opportunities to students to express what is already natural within them.
- For the youngest classes, request that the students' parents be present and use them as assistant teachers. Make sure they are aware of the lesson plan and even divide up components of the plan between the parents.

### **Additional Resources**

- Multimedia resources for those teaching Sunday School can be found [here](#). Scroll down to the very end of the page for resources which you can search by age etc. This repository is not exhaustive, and it is not meant to be. It is meant to spur thought and ideas as each teacher prayerfully works to meet the needs of their students in connection with the *Manual of The Mother Church*.
- [TeenConnect](#) has many wonderful articles written for, and often by, teens.
- The [Digital Bible Lesson](#) is being offered for free for a limited time. This can be helpful for those attending online/remote Sunday School classes who don't have a Christian Science Quarterly.
- [Concord](#) has a free 30-day trial. This is a great resource for personal study, coming up with readings, or looking up the words to hymns.