

Ideas for Adapting Your Instruction to Video Conferencing, Email, and More

These are unusual times...

As we wrote, edited, and produced this unit, each of our communities went to a quarantined status. Since there is no firm date when our churches will begin meeting in person again, we wanted to provide you, the teacher, with several ideas for how to adapt these lessons to a method that will meet your students' needs if your group is not meeting in person now or in the future.

Each class is unique. As a teacher, you know best what your class members are able to do and what level of distance teaching will work. We have collected several examples of what other teachers are doing with their groups and hope you will find these ideas helpful.

Low Tech: Mail and Phone Calls

- **Mail or deliver a hard copy of the Study Guide lessons to each class member.** If your class is small, deliver each lesson weekly. For larger groups, a monthly delivery or mailing might be more practical.
- **Each week, call your members to discuss and review the lesson content briefly.** Personal contact is vitally important in these isolated times; the fellowship and genuine care shown by believers can be essential for everyone, and especially those who are living alone.



Medium Tech: Email

- **Option 1:** Email the Study Guide lesson to your class members each week. In this unit, we have included a folder with these lessons as individual PDFs so you can easily attach each lesson's Study Guide to your weekly email. Along with the Study Guide, include in your email a few paragraphs or comments from you to introduce or comment on the lesson material. Encourage them to read the lesson carefully, to read it several times during the week for practice, and to make their own observations about the content.
- **Option 2:** Send a weekly email in which you explain the lesson content in a summarized form. You can send the Study Guide PDF or copy/paste some of its content as you "teach" through the email. Explain the verses; apply them to current situations. Give a homework assignment to read the next lesson or next Scripture passage. If you want to include video links, music links, etc., pull those from the Teaching Guide.
- **Remember: The Bible verses are what is most important.** Place the verses early in the body of the

email (not down at the end). Encourage them to read the verses in their heart language as well as English.

Medium Tech: YouTube and Texting

- **Make a YouTube video:** Simply turn on your camera phone's video feature and record yourself teaching the lesson, explaining it as if sitting across the table from a student. Post the video to a private YouTube channel that you create for free, then send your group the video link by email.
- **Create a Text Group:** Give your class a way to communicate with each other and with you for virtual class discussions. Most texting apps on phones only allow a small number of people in a text group (sometimes only 10). Consider using the free "WhatsApp" app as it allows groups up to 250 members. Your students will need to download WhatsApp on their phones.



High Tech: Video Conferencing

If your class members are computer savvy and have high-speed Internet, then video conferencing is by far the most interactive option. As a teacher, you can teach "live," you can "share your screen" to show a PowerPoint, video, etc., and you can conduct class much as you normally would. In most options, students can see you, see each other, and get a that group experience they are missing.

- **Zoom:** (Zoom.us) Zoom allows you to have video meetings for free with up to 100 participants – but free meetings are limited to 40 minutes. To have no time limit (and larger attendance), a monthly subscription is needed. Check with your church staff to see they already have a subscription that you can utilize. Someone in your class may have a Zoom account, too.
- **Facebook Messenger Video Chat:** Using Facebook Messenger, add your students to a Messenger group, then click the video chat icon.
- **Facebook Live:** Allows you to host a livestream video presentation with your students. They can type their communications via a chat box but cannot see each other.
- **Cisco Webex:** (www.cisco.com) Allows for teaching virtually with lesson plans, facilitating group projects, and hosting webinars.
- **Hangouts Meet:** hangouts.google.com
- **Microsoft Teams:** www.microsoft.com/Microsoft/teams
- **Skype:** www.skype.com