

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

These are unusual times...

This is the fourth unit produced during the era of COVID-19 which has disrupted our normal church and meeting routines. Many churches are now back to meeting — but in smaller numbers. Classes that meet in person still have members who have chosen to continue attending virtually due to health risks. We are beginning to anticipate we will never truly return to our “old normal,” so we all must continue to provide Bible study methods to our audiences in a variety of ways: socially distanced classroom settings and virtual instruction.

This page gives you a few ideas for how to adapt these lessons to a method that will meet your students’ needs in an online, prerecorded, or self-guided method. As a teacher, you know best what your class members are able to do and what level of distance teaching will work. We hope you 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 to those who are living alone.



Medium Tech: Email

- **Option 1:** Email the Study Guide lesson to your class members each week. In this unit’s download, 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 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. If you want to include video links, music links, etc., pull those from the Teaching

Guide. Give a homework assignment to read the next lesson or next Scripture passage.

- **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 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 of 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. Students can see you, see each other, and get that group experience they are missing.

- **Zoom:** (Zoom.us) Zoom allows you to host video meetings for free with up to 100 participants – but free meetings are limited to 40 minutes. To host with no time limit, a monthly subscription is needed. Check with your church staff to see if they already have a subscription you can use. Or one of your class members may have a Zoom account.. Your members will not need a subscription to attend your session.
- **Facebook Messenger Video Chat:** Using Facebook Messenger, add your students to a Messenger group, then click the video chat icon.
- **Facebook Live:** Host a livestream video presentation with your students. They can type their messages via a chat box but cannot see each other.
- **Cisco Webex:** (www.cisco.com) Teach virtually, facilitate group projects, and host webinars.
- **Hangouts Meet:** hangouts.google.com
- **Microsoft Teams:** www.microsoft.com/Microsoft/teams
- **Skype:** www.skype.com