



# DIGITAL SERVICE GUIDE

COVID-19 Edition

## OVERVIEW

From time to time, you may find that your ministry cannot meet in a physical space. Inclement weather, construction, and widespread viruses have traditionally caused student ministries to cancel services. At the same time, we all know that consistency is key in ministry. So, while nothing replaces a face-to-face conversation, we hope that this Digital Service Guide will provide an online option for you and your students to stay consistent, even if Covid-19 is preventing services from meeting in your area.

We believe online platforms can be effective in short term situations to serve student ministries in three key areas.

- Teaching Time
- Small Groups
- Partner with Parents

**Getting Started:** First, go ahead and **pick a date and time** for your services to “air” and for small groups to connect. Even though connection is possible all the time, choosing a start-time helps everyone be accountable to show up. Then, put a reminder in your calendar for a few days before to **send leaders and parents the information** they will need to help get their students connected in the right place. We imagine that service going this way:

1. Students and leaders (and even parents!) watch teaching videos online before meeting with small groups.
2. Small groups join a group chat via video or text.

In addition to teaching videos, now is a great time for students, leaders and parents to do YouVersion Devotionals. Simply download the YouVersion Bible App and search your series title to find the right devos for each week.

For the specifics of each service component, check out the sections below.

## TEACHING TIME

There are essentially two ways to teach this week’s message online:

- Option 1: Record yourself teaching the message.  
Option 2: Use an XP3 Teaching Video.

**In order to support partners as much as possible during this tricky time, we’re offering ALL of this season’s teaching videos at the links on the next page.** Simply copy the link and send it to your students or post on your social media so students can click the link to watch. If you’re in need of a video not listed here, please reach out to [partnersupport@thinkorange.com](mailto:partnersupport@thinkorange.com) or your Orange Specialist.



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## TEACHING TIME (CONTINUED)

### MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHING VIDEOS

#### Undefeated

- [Week 1](#)
- [Week 2](#)
- [Week 3](#)

#### Worth Repeating

- [Week 1](#)
- [Week 2](#)
- [Week 3](#)
- [Week 4](#)

#### None of Your Business

- [Week 1](#)
- [Week 2](#)
- [Week 3](#)
- [Week 4](#)

### HIGH SCHOOL TEACHING VIDEOS

#### Happy Easter

- [Week 1](#)
- [Week 2](#)
- [Week 3](#)

#### The Storyteller

- [Week 1](#)
- [Week 2](#)
- [Week 3](#)
- [Week 4](#)

#### Save The Date

- [Week 1](#)
- [Week 2](#)
- [Week 3](#)
- [Week 4](#)

If you do choose to record your own video, we recommend sharing with students via private VIMEO link or posting the links above to your social media channels so students can access them easily. The goal is to send students and leaders *one* link so they only have to go to one place to view the message.

### WHY NOT LIVE?

While live teaching via social media is fun and engaging, there are also a number of potential risks. Slow connection speeds, uncontrolled/visible comments, and parents who may be uneasy about their middle schooler using certain social media apps are all good reasons to consider using a private/video platform as opposed to live social media.

## SMALL GROUPS

Small group relationships and discussions are often the most influential part of student ministry. While teaching is important, nothing turns *information* into *application* quite like talking about it with peers and a caring adult. That's why, when circumstances prevent a face-to-face meetup, we recommend the following options for groups to connect.



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## SMALL GROUPS (CONTINUED)

Your ministry might already have a group video or messaging app that you use regularly. If that's the case, it's probably best to just stick with that to allow small groups to connect. If not, try Google Hangouts for video meetups.

Simply have each of your small group leaders...

1. Go to Hangouts.Google.com
2. Click "Start a Video Call"
3. Click "Copy Link"
4. Paste the link into a group text with students.
5. Proceed to have a small group conversation!

### PRO TIPS

- Remind leaders it may be helpful for students to mute their window when they aren't speaking to prevent feedback issues and eliminate background noise.
- Acknowledge the awkwardness students may feel after sharing something and it being silent because everybody is on mute. This will require the leader to help keep the conversation going.
- When asking a question you want everybody in the group to answer, like an ice breaker, have each person who shares pick the next person to go so the conversation keeps moving.

### ALTERNATIVE VIDEO SOLUTIONS

- FaceTime (Apple Users Only)
- Whereby.com
- Zoom

### ALTERNATIVE NON-VIDEO SOLUTIONS

- GroupMe
- Group text
- Instagram or Snapchat group chat

(Remember, especially with middle schoolers, parents may not allow these apps or students may not even be of legal age to use them).

The goal is for everyone to have a live and in-person conversation about this week's message. Just so that everyone is prepared, don't forget to send leaders instructions and this week's small group discussion guide in their email.

### THINK ABOUT THIS

Be sure your small group leaders have realistic expectations and remind students of group guidelines at the beginning of their meeting. Meeting in a non-traditional way opens up the possibility of way more distractions. There may be technical difficulties and the level of conversation will rarely meet the level it may in person. Still, group members can take steps to minimize distraction by meeting in a quiet room, closing other apps, and muting their own windows when they aren't speaking. Additionally, it could be great to remind leaders that it may take some time for students to warm up to this kind of conversation. That's okay! No matter what happens, remind leaders that meeting together consistently is a win in and of itself!



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## PARTNERING WITH PARENTS

Partnering with parents is always important, and it can be especially helpful in times of uncertainty. Consistent communication not only builds trust but also equips the parent to have spiritual conversations at home. Below are a few tools XP3 already provides to connect digitally with families.

- **The Parent Cue App:** This free app gives parents four cues each week to connect with their teenager (in a way that doesn't result in eye rolls). It comes pre-loaded with cues that connect seamlessly with the content discussed in XP3's suggested teaching dates, or you can customize it for your church by subscribing at [OrangeApps.Church](https://OrangeApps.Church).
- **The Parent Cue Email:** XP3 curriculum comes with parent emails each week so you can connect with families no matter what is happening in service or even if they don't attend! Also, consider sending [this guide](#) from the Parent Cue team to help parents talk with their kids and teenagers about Covid-19.

Finally, when your student services can't meet in person, it may be helpful to give parents a heads up, communicate why the change is happening, and share how their student can stay connected no matter what. Particularly for younger students, it will be helpful to let parents know that small groups are meeting online so they can provide their child with the technology and screen time permission to logon.