

Alternative Options: If not in-person Sunday school, then what?

The following is a resource list for each of the models explained with the Zoom workshop.

Synchronous Models

Intergenerational Worship

Great lectionary-based Children's Bulletins are available from Illustrated Ministry [here](#). Subscriptions to Illustrated Ministry are geared to church size and are downloadable so can easily be emailed to homes and printed for distribution at the church.

Kid's worship sheets or notes are a bit different from worship bulletins. With worship sheets children are encouraged to participate in worship and write and/or draw during the service noting what jumped out to them in the service, what they prayed for, what they have questions about, what they want to remember etc. Samples of these are all over pinterest and etsy. [Here](#) is a page of samples from a Google search. When putting one of your own together place the emphasis on wonder and awe, open-ended questions, new discoveries, and responding ideas.

Dwell Flex is a shortened version of the Christian Reformed Church's *Dwell* curriculum. With *Dwell Flex* lesson plans have been adapted for an in-worship context with well laid out children's stories and additional suggestions for further activities. You can find out more about Dwell Flex [here](#).

Check out this article with [Tips for Telling A Bible Story With Children](#) for online worship. The article includes ideas for prayers and children's recreation of the story during worship. This article is also helpful for telling the bible story for Zoom Sunday school.

Online/Zoom Sunday School

Most mainline curricula has worked to support congregations shifting to online platforms for Sunday school. Some have created videos/articles outlining how teachers can adapt lessons for shorter virtual lessons, while others have gone back and re-written every lesson plan for use virtually or by families at home during the pandemic. Regularly check out the website of the curriculum you use to look for any additional helps they have provided for your church in this regard and send these updates on to all the teachers in your church to follow.

Dwell Flex is a shortened version of the Christian Reformed Church's *Dwell* curriculum. With *Dwell Flex* lesson plans have been adapted for shortened class lengths with virtual platforms in mind. Each traditional lesson has been condensed to four key steps; Breathe, Tell and Wonder, Pray, and Respond. You can find out more about Dwell Flex [here](#).

Check out this article with [Tips for Telling A Bible Story With Children](#) for online worship. The article includes ideas for prayers and children's recreation of the story during worship. This article is also helpful for telling the bible story for Zoom Sunday school.

Hybrid Sunday School

Consider the families of your church and what they have shared with you about their hopes for faith formation with their families. Let this be the starting place for designing a hybrid of options and activities for everyone to engage in as it works with their family best. If parents are asking for primarily virtual options with the occasional in-person option for families when the pandemic numbers are down create an overall approach for the next few months with this in

mind. If families want their children to be welcome and engaged in worship with new practices for faith at home, keep this in mind. A hybrid model does not have to be overly-loaded with more programme options than your church can manage, it needs to be appropriately sized and adapted for your church's unique context.

Asynchronous Models

Faith @ Home/Playlists

On a recent PCC webinar on Hybrid Faith Formation our speaker, Kathy Pittenger, used the term 'playlists' as she described themed lists of activities for families to engage with at home. With these playlists Kathy outlines a series of stories, videos, and activities for families to pick and choose from for faith formation at home. Here is a link to these [playlists](#) from the Michigan Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Faith Alive (Christian Reformed Church) produces a small box of 165 story and activity cards for families to use at home. You can find them [here](#). There are six family activities per story and a die to roll to choose which activity your family will do tonight.

Lesson & Resource Drop-Off

If you are going to email Sunday school lesson plans to parents to teach at home you will need to re-write those lesson plans for parents to be able to follow through with easily and happily. Many parents feel ill-equipped to teach at home and are already overwhelmed with everything else that is being expected of them during the pandemic. So, review each lesson before sending it. Either cut and paste appropriate material from the lesson that adapts well for home use or write a simple and shortened lesson 'cheat sheet' for parents to follow. Focus on telling the story, questions that focus on wonder and awe, activities with few supplies that families can do together, and praying as a family.

The PCUSA has been sharing *Growing in Grace and Gratitude* curriculum materials that have been adapted for home use. These are free and include a bible story, family activities, a responding activity, a colouring sheet and a short closing worship activity. You can access each week's materials through facebook by signing up to join the [Church Educators](#) group or the [Hope 4 CE](#) group. Katie Synder posts them at the beginning of each week to both of these groups. Here are samples from this week: [Grace Sightings](#) (playlist), and the [colouring sheet](#).

Dwell Flex is shortened version of *Dwell* curriculum lesson plans from the Christian Reform Church that has been adapted for use with at home with families. You can find out more about Dwell Flex [here](#).

Dropping off resource materials to families can be exciting for everyone. Resource drop-offs gives representatives of the church a chance to say 'hi' in-person and families a chance to catch up on all the news. Being given everything you need to make something together, whether it is cake or an Advent wreath, practically guarantees the activity will be done. However, while preparing these bags for families can be fun, if it is done too often it can become exhausting for the shoppers and packers and expensive for the church. For families, less can also be more. Consider doing such resource drop-offs seasonally with family activities for Advent, Lent, Pentecost and summer. A Zoom event that has families participating in real time together using the resources from the bag would give the church the greatest opportunity to unpack the history and practice of these seasonal events while unpacking their bags and making that wonderful time that will help families establish a new ritual for the season they are celebrating at home.

Google Slides

Last year I featured a number of interactive Google Slides on the synod website for families to engage with during the seasons of Advent/Christmas, Lent/Easter. This prompted a number of requests for me to teach people how to make Goggle slides of their own. You can view the video of the workshop on Google slides [here](#). And download a detailed instruction sheet to follow as you set up your own Google slide [here](#).

If you are going to deliver Sunday school lessons through a Google Sides create a basic slide with a room and furniture that is consistent over the weeks; an inviting room, a couch, a table with a jar of crayons, inviting chairs, bookshelf with bible and bible story book, a musical instrument, and a whiteboard and video screen will set you up to exchange the links to activities each week without having to design a new class every week. Adding a 'me-moji' of yourself to the classroom makes it more personal and gives kids a connection with you sen if it isn't in real time..