



Games People Play

Our church plans seem to change on the daily these days. Will we be online? Can we meet in person? Inside? Outside? Masked? Socially distanced? It makes it seemingly impossible to plan.

Here are nine games you can play with youth (or adults!) that can be done socially distanced in person or via Zoom. That way, whatever happens, you're ready!

Games You Can Play via Zoom OR in person and socially distanced

Sentence Story

Use each letter of the alphabet as the beginning sound of each sentence. Take turns, if in person go around a socially distanced circle, if on zoom establish a pattern and then begin.

The first person begins their sentence using the letter A sound as the first sound of their sentence "A long time ago there lived a giant." The second person begins their sentence with the sound of B. "Because the giant was so big everyone thought she was mean." Take it from there and finish the story in 26 sentences.

(found in 101 Games That teach Storytelling Skills by Anthony and Mike Burcher)

Famous for Two Minutes

Let each group members be a famous person. The rest of the group has two minutes to guess who the person is.

On Zoom: have the group ask questions via chat. The person can answer the questions in order. After two minutes is up, they have to guess. If someone thinks they can guess before time is up, have them call out "I got it!" If they get it, move to next round. If not, keep asking questions until time is up.

Socially distanced: have kids write down questions on a piece of paper (the number each can ask depends on number of kids. Have them put the names in a hat, then the leader can ask as many questions as possible in the two minutes or until someone guesses.

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3 on a Couch

Each participant sends leader a sentence about something that happened to them.

On Zoom: Have them sent it via email ahead of the game or ask them to send to the leader only via chat option.

Socially distanced: Have them write it on a piece of paper and toss it in the hat or box. Make sure they put their name on their story sentence.

Leader asks three people to tell the story. Leader chooses the actual person who submitted the story and two others to share. You might want to give everyone a sec to get their stories straight. The participants have to guess who the story really happened to.

These Shoes Have Been

Each member of the group tells at least one place that the shoes they currently have on have been.

On Zoom: You'll want to request that people wear shoes to the Zoom call. Have each participant lift up a foot and show off their shoes.

Socially distanced: just keep an appropriate distance as you share.

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Blind Drawing

Whether on Zoom or socially distanced: make sure everyone has a piece of paper, a marker (it shows up the best) and a surface to write on.

Give the instructions for everyone to orient their marker to the middle of their paper and then look up at the ceiling and not look down until instructed to do so. Tell them to draw the following on their page (without looking down!!) Draw the Empire State Building on the left side of your page. Now go up to the top of the building and put a flag on top. Draw a bus on the street in front of the building Draw a bird flying by the 10th story window Draw a lady walking her dog on the other side of the street from the bus. Now look down and admire your artistry.

Have everyone share their drawing on the screen or in person.

You can change up what they are drawing based on the theme of the day or your imagination.

Blurt

Equally chaotic on Zoom or socially distanced.

Everyone blurts out a word and the group challenge is to try to end up with the whole group saying the same word. Keep blurting out words until everyone says the same word.

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This is My Nose

A person starts by saying “Lisa - this is my nose” but points to another part of their body, for instance their ear. Lisa must now respond by pointing to her ear and saying “Lee, this is my elbow” and the game goes on until someone gets flustered. If you want, you can choose someone to be “it” - they countdown from 5 with their fingers and if they reach 0 before someone makes the correct response, the person who didn’t get the words out in time become “it”,

On Zoom: just make sure that people only point to body parts that are visible. Although the various levels of dexterity can make the game really interesting.

Read My Lips

On Zoom: Leader sends a phrase via private message to your “speaker” The speaker mutes themselves and shares the phrase - the rest of the group has to read their lips to determine what is said. Best if group goes to spotlight view on the “speaker.”

In person: the person merely mouths the words. Of course, no one can get within six feet of the person, so the distance makes it extra challenging. It may call for some overly dramatic mouthing on the part of the "speaker."

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Gimme Five

Whether socially distanced or on Zoom, make sure everyone has a several pieces of paper and a marker. Advise everyone to write large enough so that everyone can see the writing when it is shared via screen or across the room.

For each round, give everyone 30 seconds to name five things in the given category. Then have everyone hold up their list of five. Participants get a point for each unique answer they have (as long as the group agrees it fits in the category). For instance: if the category is five types of swimsuits and only one person says "tri-kini," that person gets a point.

Here are some suggestions for lists of five:

Five occasions when people send greeting cards .

Five things people compliment each other on .

Five types of pies without fruit .

Five things people do in the morning

Five foods associated with Christmas

Five phrases or expressions that include the word "good"

Five brands of soda

Five appliances found in most homes

You can make your own lists of "five" to best fit your group.

MAKE PLANS TO JOIN US!

Arts, Recreation and Music Conference
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