



You may have noticed that church looks a little different right now. You may have already experienced church at home. Churches in many countries are suspending regular in-person gatherings, but that doesn't mean church is canceled. As followers of Jesus, we are the Church. So, how can we stay connected even if we don't meet in person?

During these recent weeks, we've seen God working in and through people attending [Next Level Church Online](#) as our world works together to fight the spread of the coronavirus.

Having Church at Home

Doing church from home is not a new thing. Here's some encouragement from the Apostle Paul who helped lead the early church when it essentially only met in homes.

Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near.
Hebrews 10:24-25 NLT

Here are some ideas:

Attend Next Level Church Online. As the phrase social distancing becomes a household term, we know that we can still be social and connected even if we're physically distanced. We can keep meeting together digitally. You are always invited to one of our [Next Level Church Online](#) experiences throughout the week. But don't just attend by yourself. *You can invite your friends, family, NLC Group, or anyone to join you.*

There's something for kids too. We have age-specific content for everyone in your home. Our NLC Students (grades 6-12) should follow us on [Instagram](#) to stay connected. Here's [everything you need for all the kids in your home](#).

Discover tools for any kind of NLC Group. Now is a great time to revisit what it means to be a group of people following Jesus together. At its core, [NLC Groups are friends](#) who walk through life together. **Why you connect remains the same no matter how you connect.** Here are some resources:

Spend time in God's Word through the [YouVersion Bible App](#). Use the new Prayer feature to pray with people you love, and do a Bible Plan together using Plans with Friends. There are lots of great plans available around topics like fear, anxiety, and hope. Make use of digital communication tools like video chats, group text, group chats, and

What Does It Look Like to *Be* the Church?

We don't just go to church; we are the Church, and that means loving our neighbors as ourselves where we are. But how do we do that right now? The best way to discover the needs of neighbors is simply to text or call and ask how they're doing. Here are some ideas for being the Church right where you are:

- Text or call people you know who are vulnerable (elderly, asthmatic, organ-transplant recipients, those living with MS, HIV, cancer, diabetes, etc.) and ask how they are feeling. Listen to them. [Share prayers with the NLC family](#). Ask if there's anything they need.
- FaceTime or call your friends and family. Skip the text. As people are practicing social distancing, seeing your face and/or hearing your voice will go a long way for their well-being, as it will yours. Talk about anything and everything, especially if it doesn't have to do with world events.
- Email your neighborhood or housing association and offer to pick up prescriptions or groceries for those who can't, or shouldn't. Again, only do this if you know you are well.
- Call your local food banks and non-profits and ask about what would best assist their efforts.
- Give. God has blessed many of us with margin—both financially and with our time. Look for ways to be generous with your family, your friends, [your church](#), and your neighbors.
- Look for needs on social media. People are quick to point out that they're in need on social media. Maybe someone needs encouragement, prayer, or someone just to be kind. Meet a need.
- Call or text parents you know. With school being postponed for a month or more, there could be some moms and dads struggling with the new reality of working from home and balancing the needs of their children. Sometimes just talking with another adult helps.
- Pray specifically. Pray for a vaccine that works. Pray for healing and protection for your neighbors all around the world. Pray for God to show you when, where, and how to act.

Share Stories and Find Hope

Will you do us a favor and help us discover your story by posting about your experiences with church at home? You can do this by tagging your post with [@thenextlevelchurch](#). You can share stories of church at home or being the Church where you are. Follow NLC on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

• • •

Remember, just because church is different right now doesn't mean we stop being the Church. We are the Church. And as the Church, we have an opportunity to live out the love, hope, joy, and peace that can only be found in Jesus. We will live by faith, trusting that the Holy Spirit is at work in homes around the world as people continue to worship God together online, with family, or as the Church wherever they are.