

**Linda Dow-Byers from Lancaster CoB recently shared some ideas
for youth groups who wish to connect online:**

Play Zoom Games with Your Youth Group

When planning a Zoom meeting use any way possible to gather youth – send text, to youth and parents, Facebook messages and email – or pick up the phone and call. Get a time that works for the most people (day or evening) and send the ZOOM link. If your new to ZOOM – plan a test run with a few people beforehand. Remember your FREE Zoom may only last 40 Minutes so be prepared to open a second meeting to keep playing. OR – be mindful to close before the Zoom meeting abruptly ends (there is a message on the screen to count down). Be sure to take time to connect in the Spirit too. Pray together, ask what joy they have seen or if youth have seen God at work through this time. If this format is challenging (like youth who just want to dance around in front of the camera or do silly things – Jr High Boys for example) find ways to take a moment – embrace the silliness – but make parameters to end it at a certain time. Don't forget to invite the Pastor to join in or other adults who help in youth ministry. Have FUN! This is an amazing time to reach youth in a way we never could before because of the just plan business of life.

Here are 2 Games are a good way to gather together and to reconnect:

Scavenger Hunt

This is a game that gets youth up and moving while at home.

Create a list of items to be found around the house. As the game leader you will be calling out the items for people to find - one at a time. Points are given for the first few people to return and show the item on the screen. Sometimes you can give extra points for creativity.

Send GAME RULES to players -

In the game you will need to move around your house to retrieve things. If using your phone, the phone will need to stay in place. So if you are on a phone find a good way to prop it up in front of you. Laptop or Desktop computers in a centrally located place in your house may work best. Same with your Phone, place it somewhere in your house where you can move the easily from room to room.

If you want to be proactive and "guess" at items which might be included in the hunt - go for it! It is not cheating. You are allowed to move items closer to you as we play the game or before we begin. **SIBLINGS FIGHTING OVER ITEMS** will not be tolerated!!!! No Points for you! Siblings Could take turns and be one player using one camera.

First Person back to the Camera with **THEIR FACE** and the **ITEM** in the screen gets 2 points. Second person back gets 1 point. **ONLY PLAYERS** can retrieve items. **NO HELP FROM PARENTS** to retrieve items. **YOU** however can Ask someone else in the room where you can find the item in your house if you don't know where it is - but this might slow you down. **YOUR FACE** has to be in the camera **LIVE** before the item is called.

Decide before the game if Photos or Pictures of items count.

List of possible items for Scavenger Hunt			
Toothpick	Broom	Cookbook	Light bulb
Penny	Nail	Box	Roll of Toilet paper
Sneaker	Envelope	Scissors	Crayon
Water bottle	Saltshaker	Greeting Card	Comb
Toothbrush	Stamp	Pencil	Tea bag or K-cup
Jar of Jelly	Pillow	Boot	Screwdriver
Rubber band	Fingernail Clippers	Fork	Stapler
Flower	Spray bottle	Towel	Candle
Pillow	Sharpie marker	Deck of Cards	Flip Flop
Sock – not white or black	Piece of Fruit	Plastic Bag	Coupon
Battery	Soap	Blade of Grass	Remote

Scavenger Hunt ABC

This game is less moving around the house but just as much fun. We used Scrabble game letters (one letter each A to Z). As the game leader you will be calling out the letter – Players will have 30 to 40 seconds (bring up a stopwatch online) to retrieve an item which begins with that letter. Players return with the item but DO NOT show the item on the screen. When everyone returns, players show their item at the same time. Each Player with an item starting with that letter gets one point EXCEPT - No Points are given to the players who have brought back the same item. (For example, if P is called and three people bring back a Pencil – no one with a pencil gets a point) Sometimes you can give extra points for creativity. (Example: any Faith Based Item gets Extra Points – Bible for B or Cross for C) Items can only be used one time - (Example: you cannot use a Fork for "F" and hold it up again as a "U" in Utensil)

Decide before you start if an adjective describing the item counts (Example: T – Terracotta Pot – is it in or out)

Player can take the camera with along to look for items (so on your phone may give you a slight advantage) because items can be larger things you can't move to the computer. (Like a Bed for "B") BUT KNOWING THE RULES AHEAD Players are allowed to prepare ahead of time! There are only 26 letters. Letters will not repeat.

A Photo or picture of an item in your home counts (Example: for Q the photo of a Quaker on the Quaker Oats Box counts), but not something on your computer or phone screen. OR Something you printed from your computer ahead of time. (that does not count)