





# Zoom group games with church kids



## General tips for leaders

- Leave enough time for connecting with each other (see the activities below!)
- Know what the purpose of the Zoom meeting is and let everyone know what you'll be doing.
- Keep the agenda short and tight.
- Control the meeting. Control who leads, mute others if necessary, take control of the conversation when it's getting sidetracked, bring the focus back to your agenda.
- Lead with energy! Be enthusiastic and keep up the energy levels through the meeting.
- Respect the time. Finish when you said you will.
- Thank the children for being involved.
- Be flexible and give grace. Things don't always work with the technology.
- Don't forget that you are on video. Protect privacy. Ensure you're dressed appropriately. Don't Zoom from your bedroom.
- Remember your Safe Ministry guidelines at all times!

Here are some fun activities which can supplement your Zoom groups to keep kids engaged!

-  Identify which activities you could adapt to suit the teaching theme for upcoming Zoom sessions, and plan when to use them.
-  You could use 1-2 activities to get the wriggly's out and have some fun with the kids before you start the more settled questions.
-  Keep one up your sleeve each day to insert into your questions in case the kids are finding it difficult to concentrate.
-  Variety is important. But so is identifying the favourites and using them well.

## Whiteboard hangman

Play Hangman using the whiteboard function on Zoom. Choose a word which the children have to guess (you could choose a word from your lesson). Draw a series of dashes to represent the number of letters in the word. Kids nominate a letter. If it's in the word, write it in, but if not, draw one line of your hangman sketch. Kids have to guess the word before the man is hung!



Zoom tip: Make sure that you as Host turn off sharing for the kids or they might draw all over your whiteboard screen. (Click the option arrow to the right of "Share Screen", select "Advanced Sharing Options" and under "Who can share?" select "Only Host")

## Scavenger hunt

You could play this game up to 3 times each day. It's a great way to get to know what your kids treasure.

Explain that you will be calling out an object that they will need to get up and find (if possible, choose objects which relate to your story). The first kid back in front of their camera holding up that object is the winner. Count down from 3, then say the object clearly.

Examples are:

- a cuddly soft toy    a dragon    favourite book    favourite dvd
- a coin    your pillow    a cookie    a photo
- the oldest person in the house    the youngest person in the house
- Bible



Zoom tip: Ask the kids to mute their mics before you start this activity!

## Follow the leader (orchestra)

Ask the kids to set their Zoom view to "Gallery" so that they can see each other at the same time. Explain the rules: You will select one child to be "in" – and they will be put in a breakout room for 30 secs. While that is done, you will choose one of the remaining children to be the leader. Whatever action that they do, the other children must copy. When the leader is chosen, ask the leader to begin their first action, which everyone else copies. Bring the child who is "in" back from the breakout room. Give them 3 chances to guess who the leader is!



Zoom tip: Mute everyone except the person who is "in".

## Scattegories (or name, place, animal, thing)

This takes about 5 minutes.

This game uses the chat function. It might be good to introduce this slowly – perhaps on the first day just get the kids to enter their name and say ‘hi’. On the second zoom session, jump into the game.

Set some ground rules for using the chat (and remind them of these each day):

1. everyone is to chat to everyone, not to individuals.
2. Only use the chat function when you ask them to.
3. Keep it clean.

Praise them for doing the right thing.

To play, just type on letter into the chat function.

Kids have to type in one word for each category (name, place, animal, thing), then hit enter.

First child with it done correctly wins!

If you only have young children, perhaps only do two or three categories.

## Tell me a story

To prepare for the game:

- Ask the kids to set their Zoom view to “Gallery” so that they can see each other at the same time.
- Ask each child to get a blank sheet of A4 paper and a pencil/texta/pen/crayon etc.
- Choose a person to be the storyteller (the leader should do this for the first time)

To play the game:

- Ask each child to draw an item or thing on their piece of paper (it can be anything they like).
- Ask them all to hold up their drawings so that everyone can see them on cameras
- The storyteller invents a story that includes all the items in it, following the images in the gallery view in the order that they appear on their screen (which will be different to the order that they appear on other’s screens.)
- As a general rule, they should only say one sentence for each drawing.
- Finish by drawing things that they are thankful for and make up a story with those things.

## Bible survivor

After a passage has been read or taught, split the group up into breakout groups. They have a time limit to come up with 3 hard questions from the passage which the other groups will have to answer.

When they come back from breakout rooms, groups deliver one question at a time to the other groups. First to answer wins a point for their group!

## Zoom app games

Zoom is slowly adding new apps to their suite of add-ons.

You can find the game apps here: <https://marketplace.zoom.us/apps?category=games>

- Heads Up!
- Team Games
- Kahoot!



Zoom tip: These games were developed with adult users in mind. Review them carefully before using with children.