



Being the Church in Un-gathered Times

Discipleship and Pastoral Care

Last updated: 15 April 2020

We are in a challenging new season, being the church un-gathered for worship and discipleship.

Here is a list of Uniting Churches and Uniting Church ministries in South Australia and the ways they are resourcing and encouraging **discipleship and pastoral care** at home for people of all ages. The second table below has resources from other denominations or interstate churches or ministries.

The resources include bible studies for individuals, small groups, children and families, and ways to serve and pastorally care for each other. Please send us your church's resources or online links so we can encourage and inspire one another's churches and also share the task of producing resources.

Please feel free to download, adapt, share and/or print these resources for your church community.

There is a separate list available of links to **church in worship** resources for online and non-digital worship here: <https://sa.uca.org.au/uniting-church-media-releases/free-online-church-resources-from-sa-uniting-church-congregations>

Safety online: Please remember to be respectful, aware of cyberbullying, not share private information and if you are including children and young people in online resources and/or communicating with children and young people online that you take steps to ensure this is done safely. This may include:

- Obtaining appropriate permission from parents or carers to communicate online or to provide access to an online group space
- Setting boundaries and rules for your online engagement and sharing them with children and their parents or carers, for example agreeing specific times for contact and identifying if a parent will be present
- Putting measures in place to address any potential risks such as cyberbullying or inappropriate direct online contact
- Identifying how you will respond to any reports or experiences of inappropriate online conduct

For further advice contact Linda Vinall (Called to Care officer) lvinall@sa.uca.org.au or 8236 4248.

This information has been adapted from an [article](#) by Rev John Cox, Director, National Safe Church Unit.

Resources from Uniting Churches and UC ministries in South Australia:

Congregation Name	Discipleship and Pastoral Care Resource information
<p>Centre for Music, Liturgy and the Arts</p>	<p>www.cmla.org.au https://www.facebook.com/cmlaunitingchurchsa/ For a variety of prayer resources, including prayer at the sea or park.</p>
<p>Coromandel Valley</p>	<p>See corouniting.org or facebook.com/CoroUniting/ for full details</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9.45am Mondays (during term time) – mainly music online session and zoom call – contact families@corouniting.org for details • Regular Prayer Gatherings, Bible Readings, Youth catch-ups and Life Groups throughout the week using zoom – contact communications@corouniting.org for details <p>Online <i>Faith@Home</i> resources for families at corouniting.org/resources?section=kids, take-home Easter Family pack and weekly <i>Faith@Home</i> e-news and FB group for resourcing and encouragement.</p>
<p>Intergen Team, Mission Resourcing</p>	<p>Easter Faith Family Trail at Home – small group Bible studies for all ages Explore the events of the Easter story through a variety of activity stations. Each station has a theme, Bible passage, questions to chat about, and simple activity and prayer ideas. https://sa.uca.org.au/intergen/family-resources/</p> <p>KCO small group Bible studies – 3 sessions adapted for at home exploring the theme KCO Connect. https://sa.uca.org.au/kco/</p> <p>For other discipleship resources for families please email Melissa – mneumann@sa.uca.org.au</p>
<p>MediaCom</p>	<p>MediaCom Education are offering a free resource for congregations to use for Palm Sunday. This can be used as a Bible study or focus for worship. It can be downloaded here: http://www.mediacom.org.au/pdf/April_5.pdf</p>
<p>Walkerville</p>	<p>We have a YouTube channel with Lenten bible study series and playgroup at home. The links are on our facebook page and website.</p> <p>https://www.walkerville.unitingchurch.org.au/ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKwD-mOCwaMIWN-I6v4XvjQ/ https://www.facebook.com/WalkervilleUC/</p>

Resources from other denominations and places:

Organisation Name	Discipleship and Pastoral Care Resource information
<p>The Bible App for Kids</p>	<p>https://www.youversion.com/the-bible-app-for-kids/ YouVersion partnered with OneHope to develop the Bible App for Kids, designing it specifically to engage children with Bible stories on an age-appropriate level. It's a free app for devices and available in over 50 languages.</p> <p>It introduces children to 41 of the 'big' Bible stories helping kids to understand the overall story of the Bible. There are fun, interactive animations, games and kid-friendly navigation to find the story they want, then reads it aloud to them.</p> <p>https://bibleappforkids.com/ Find the App, videos, curriculum, Bible Storybook and activities – including a section for parents with resources for home.</p>
<p>BibleProject <i>(primarily for 18 – 45 year olds)</i></p>	<p>https://bibleproject.com/church-at-home/ Primarily engages 18 – 45 year olds. The Bible is one unified story that leads to Jesus. At BibleProject they make free animated videos that explore the books and themes of the Bible. During this crisis, they want to come alongside churches to help you continue to engage with the Bible through an 8 week email program with a BibleProject video, short audio message, Scripture readings and discussion questions. Either sign up or check online for each week's guides: https://bibleproject.com/church-at-home/</p>
<p>Grow Ministries, Lutheran Church of Australia</p>	<p>https://www.growministries.org.au/product-category/church-at-home/ Free resources for families and households for Easter, Pentecost and engaging in the Bible.</p> <p>https://www.growministries.org.au/shop/ Check out the free and low cost resources for families, small groups and others here.</p>
<p>Bible Society</p>	<p>https://www.biblesociety.org.au/open-the-bible Devotionals, articles and stories for this season.</p>
<p>Lost Sheep ministries</p>	<p>Andrew McDonough, Lost Sheep creator, author and illustrator, is doing a 14 day series on YouTube with drawing and stories. Here's the link to Day 1.</p> <p>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ofcZ3p-4B6s&list=PLXD7zYLIM2ZTvhw7z3uK5u7uMonusyrrh&index=1</p>
<p>mainly music <i>(music based playgroup style program)</i></p>	<p>To join a weekly Friday email, email johood@mainlymusic.org to be added to the listing. Each week mainly music are producing short, on-line sessions.</p> <p>If you have playgroups in your churches who are struggling to connect with their playgroup families, this is a great way to provide something for them to do and connect with them. We recommend playgroup leaders suggest to the families they are connected with 'Bring a tea towel or scarf to this fun session. It's designed for you as a parent and your child to participate in together, rather than watch like a television program.'</p>

<p>School Ministry Group</p>	<p>This is SMG's Digital Wellbeing channel: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8iG4tzcAllrt_SgcutR-egElwX5IR7ks This aims to provide you with helpful content with practical applications that you can use with your community - your school, church or community group. Based on the Protective 3 from research that suggests if we can learn to be grateful, hopeful and brave we can become resilient people. Building resilience and becoming people who can bounce back from difficult situations is a vital part of living a fulfilled life. These videos focus on GRATITUDE, being HOPEFUL, and being BRAVE.</p>
<p>Scripture Union England and Wales</p>	<p>https://guardiansofancora.com/ This amazing virtual world is a game for 8 – 11 year olds where the Bible stories come alive. Free for all mobile devices.</p>
<p>Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australia</p>	<p>https://disciple.org.au/resource_category/children-and-family/ - go to the “Big Camp at Home” tab. This resource is a national collaboration of family state conventions that are usually held during the April school holidays. This resources is good for 0 – 9 year olds with 8 days of stories, songs, science, crafts, activities and more for children to engage with, some around Easter but not all of it. Lots of links to other resources too!</p>
<p>Traci Smith (Pastor, Presbyterian Church USA)</p>	<p>http://www.traci-smith.com/covid-19-100-ideas-for-ministers-and-ministry-leaders/ Check out this list of 100 ideas, including links to resources, for churches on ways to keep your church community running, classic or creative spiritual practices for at a distance, loving your neighbor, faith at home practices (for all ages), and spiritual practices to reduce anxiety and foster peace.</p>