**Top Tips for Zoom sessions with Young People Nov 2020**

**Ideas to help your session run smoothly…**

* Remember to assign a leader to take a register.
* Try to say hello to each person by name – the welcome is really important. Maybe have a start activity whilst you wait for others to join the call.
* If you want people to be watching you/speaker/live game on screen, then mute everyone and share your screen, unless you want their input.
* At the end, expel one young person at a time until the leaders are left, then do a debrief. That is better for safeguarding.
* Check permissions for attendance.
* Remind the young people about the ground rules at the start of each meeting e.g. this might include not direct messaging people during the conference.
* Use your whole team, giving different people responsibility for different bits of the session.
* Use the admin function well so mute/unmute people. Have hosts and co-hosts.
* Use hand raising feature to allow people to talk who otherwise you won’t see.
* Keep your session to a minimum e.g. 45 minutes.
* If you have a large group, split into smaller sub-groups. A maximum of 7 young people with 2 leaders is ideal.

**Ideas to combat Zoom Fatigue**:

* Encourage your young people to create the right space at home for the Zoom call. They might be more comfortable sitting at a table.
* Tweak the Zoom settings to gallery view and encourage your young people to focus on the speaker to lesson performance anxiety. Many schools have student switch off their cameras, so this is another option.
* Make sure you have some fun.
* Build in movement into your session e.g. a physical challenge.
* Make your session as interactive as possible.
* If concentration is an issue, encourage your young people to doodle or have a fidget toy.
* Encourage your young people to buddy up - make a connection with at least 1 other outside of the group zoom. This could be a 1:1 in the park, or a phone call. When it comes to the group zoom, your young person will have a friend they are looking out for.

**Suggested running order**

7.00 Rolling start/welcoming people

7.15 Intro ice-breaker game: Treasure hunt - bring me a.... game (e.g. sponge). People have to leave their camera, run to get something, come back.

7.23 Bible Reading (get a young person to read).

7.26 Memory verse – maybe have this on a Powerpoint and screen share (optional)

7.30 Short reflection on Bible passage and discussion starter questions

7.35 Prayer time with anyone praying

7.40 Physical challenge or challenge for young people to do during the week

7.45 End

**Content ideas**

**Icebreaker games**

1. Explain that you will be calling out a list of items and the challenge is to go and get them and bring the item to the camera screen. Optionally the winner could be the first person to type a silly word or name into the chat. This may be needed if you have a large group. This will get everyone enjoying themselves but also start teaching the group how to use the chat facility on zoom.
2. Pictionary. The host sends a personal message to a member of the group telling them what to draw. They draw the picture using the whiteboard on screen share within the time limit (e.g. one minute). As people call out what they think it is they type their answer in chat. The first correct answer is the winner and the next drawer.
3. Two Lies and a Truth: invite each person to prepare a list of three interesting "facts" about themselves, two of which must be made up. These could be anything, from a pet they own or a hobby they love to a famous person they have met. As a group decide on the facts they think are true. The team member who receives the most incorrect votes wins.
4. Tell the group that you are going to ask a question and then everyone has to type their answer into chat as quickly as possible. The speedy writing and thinking will create some funny answers.
5. Word Association: Say a word, maybe round a theme for the session, and invite everyone to type into chat the first word they think of. This could lead into a discussion on how similar or different the people in the group think.
6. Invite people to find an item in their room that represents them and to say why. Later you could use these same items to describe God and be reminded that we are made in his image.
7. Split the group in half and ask them to come up with something that the people in the group have in common. The most obscure the better. The bigger the group the harder it will be.
8. Empires game with them sending their identity through to host by WhatsApp in advance of session starting (so host unable to play) and young people messaging each other on group chats as their empire grows.

**Icebreaker Questions**

1. Give an example of something you've done this week that you feel proud of.
2. If you weren't on this catchup, what would you like to be doing?
3. If you could eat any meal right now, what would it be?

**Activities**

1. Ask everyone that for next week they need to have 3 images ready for screen share; all 3 of the same item with different zoom levels. Image one very close, image 2 a little further away, image 3 way off so it is quite easily identifiable. The group take it in turns to show their images with the rest of the group guessing what it is. The group vote for the winner based on what images surprised them most.
2. Get everyone to take a picture of their shoes, or show their foot on the screen, and tell a short story about their shoe and where it has been.
3. Tell a story one word, or sentence, at a time. Take turns to add to the story. The host can type it into chat as it is being said so that it is easy for everyone to keep up with the story. You can add a theme or base it on a bible story.
4. Play Jenga. A host numbers each of the Jenga blocks then the group take it in turns to call out the numbered block to be removed by the host.
5. Invite the group to bring a favourite bible verse and an item with them next week and a short explanation of why they have chosen them.
6. Would you rather? Ask the group some 'Would you rather' questions and let them answer by clicking thumbs up or clapping. Make sure everyone is on grid view so they can see how people have voted. Invite others to ask the questions too. You could use this to split the group into a breakout for a small group activity.
7. Set a challenge for the group to use the catchup blog on the website. Have a particular blog already loaded for people to add comments to.
8. Encourage your group to think how they might bless another group from your church.

**Discussion starters**

1. Interviews: put people together in twos with the task to tell each other in one minute what they did last Saturday. When the group comes together each person tells the group what their partner did. How well did they do?   
   Go deeper with the activity by asking where did you see God on Saturday?
2. Create a scenario for small groups to work on in a short time. Bring the group together and ask each group, in turn, to present their feedback to the wider group.
3. Burning questions: this gives each person the opportunity to ask a burning question. Type them onto the screen as the questions are asked and decide as a group which ones to answer. Don’t feel as though you need to answer them yourself but invite the group to pool their wisdom. Get them to use the hands up facility when they want to speak.
4. Tell the group that you are going to ask a question and they should type their answer on the chat. It might be worth mute everyone while people type in. Depending on the question asked it might lead to a discussion? Don’t ask questions that lead to long answers. You could ask questions like what do you think was Jesus’ most precious possession, where was Jesus when God created the world?

**Bible studies**

1. Challenge the group to read the weekly bible passage blog and respond to the questions. Use the blog comments to start a deeper discussion on the passage during the Zoom catchup.
2. Choose bible passages on a theme for small groups to work on in a short time. Give them 3 questions to answer such as: what does the passage say, what does it mean, what does it say about God? Bring the group together and ask each group, in turn, to tell what they have discovered about God. you may want to turn it into praise and worship saying thank you for who God is.

**Worship**

1. Where have you seen God at work today? Use the answers to encourage each other and be reminded of Philippians 4:6-7.
2. Play a worship song and invite each person to write down the phrases that speak most to them. Afterwards share the phrases and whys. The Leader can type the phrases and let them form a new song and prayer for the group.
3. Invite the group to choose a small item from the room they are in. Take it in turns to show the item and reflect on how it reflects the character of God. Once a person has shared their item invite you could invite others to add their thoughts.
4. Light a candle and place in front of the screen. Reflect quietly together. Invite people to speak out one-word responses. Make sure you put a time limit on it so that people know what to expect. The host may want to move out of the way so they are not visible behind the candle.

**Prayer**

1. Pente prayer. Pray at the same time out loud - it gets everyone involved.