



Living Our Values in Lockdown



SERVING



Mission and ministering always require an attitude of service. Serving churches follow the example of Jesus by ministering to the needs of others and seeking to discover new ways to serve.

- › **Call elderly neighbours just to chat**, see how they are doing and offer to go shopping for them. Let them know they can call you whenever they want to! Maybe you could even help an elderly person to start using a new digital platform so you can both see and talk to each other.
- › **Join up with a group of church members** and a local grocery store (and, if necessary, the local authorities) **and offer free home delivery to quarantined members of the community** at certain times during the week. The shop could pack the received orders, and you could individually take them to people's homes. Let the shop do the advertising. Agree on a joint greeting to put in the boxes. Make sure the transport does not transmit any virus. Wear gloves and facemask when handling the goods.
- › **If you have school-age children**, work together with the teachers and some of the other parents and offer to **help the class with homework at certain times during the week** on their digital platform. Or maybe some children would just welcome the chance to chat with someone outside the family for half an hour? Let the teachers advertise the service to both parents and students.
- › **Collaborate with some local sport-club leaders**, or leaders of other activities for children and youth, and arrange a meet-up online for local teens or tweenagers, with games, quizzes, competitions, film-nights and other fun things. Look for an app like Houseparty to help you facilitate this.
- › **Where people are allowed to go outside, create a treasure-hunt or an activity-trail in a local park**, forest or other suitable area that families can do together. It is possible to do this event without leaving any traces. You could, for example, bring a Teddy bear and take pictures of him in different sites and situations and then post the pictures online, for example in a Facebook group. The children would then have to follow the trail of the Teddy with the help of the pictures (that can be viewed on a smart phone). If they want to, they could take pictures of their own Teddy in the same places and post it online. Advertise in the Facebook group for your local area. Such initiatives are much appreciated by parents and children alike.

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Harald Giesebrecht
Norway



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- › **Help create digital meeting places for local adults.** Start an online club or offer your local community lectures, house concerts, quizzes, competitions, book discussions, interviews, movie nights, etc. Get in touch with interesting people and ask them to contribute. Be creative. Let the local newspaper be part of it as a community initiative and they will do the advertising. Livestream on Facebook/YouTube, use Zoom or do both at the same time.
- › **Make a poster for your window,** or write with chalk on the pavement, “Praying for you – Praying for everyone”.

Useful links

- › First and foremost, there is this amazing page from the TED with so many easy to do - serving and caring ideas: <https://ted.adventist.org/family-ministries/live-kind>
- › Here are two more sites with great tips and ideas for how to be social online (just ignore the alcohol-references):
<https://parade.com/1011597/nicolepajer/ways-to-stay-social-coronavirus/>
<https://thewirecutter.com/blog/coronavirus-socializing-online/>

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