



Living Our Values in Lockdown

CONNECTING



Connecting churches strive to form authentic and loving relationships across generational, cultural and social boundaries.

- › Unexpectedly, couples now have to spend a lot of time together to have meaningful conversations with each other and to connect. **Use ready-made conversation questions to get the conversations started.** <https://www.thedatingdivas.com/conversation-starters-for-marriage/>
- › **Write a lovely card to the children and young people from your local congregation.** You could even make handmade cards to send. Usually the children and young people write or create something for the sick and elderly folks in church. In this time, children's lives have changed drastically so use this as an opportunity to return a pleasant favour.
- › **Make sure that everyone has access to a GDPR compliant list of members and families in your church** and organize your community into caring groups that can focus on connecting with each other once a week. Encourage every younger family group or young person to connect with an older person or couple, especially those who are isolated. It's especially important to listen to their stories and feelings, and to find ways you can help them with their needs. There is a seminar on listening carefully at <https://ted.adventist.org/family-ministries/live-kind> - then scroll past the live:kind ideas to Listening Kindly.
- › Because there are no Sabbath School classes and church services, we miss each other's company. **Create a WhatsApp group with church members to send each other encouraging songs, quotes or Bible texts.** Livestream a couple of discussion leaders and let participants post questions or comments via WhatsApp, Zoom, or YouTube. For members who are physically unable to go to church, this is a wonderful way to attend online Sabbath School and services. Create a Facebook page for your local church. Ask members to take a Sabbath selfie and design a collage with all the pictures.
- › **Create small bouquets with beautiful spring flowers from your garden,** add an encouraging card and leave it on the doorstep of your neighbour or friend. Ring the bell, you will get a big smile, and you can connect from a distance.

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- › How are the people doing you haven't seen in church for a long time? Or how are those who have resigned in recent years? This is a good time to re-establish contact. **Send them a postcard, an app or, even better, give them a call.**
- › **For parents, this time is a special opportunity to invest in your children's faith.** There are several programmes online with ready-made Bible materials for use at home. Connect with each other and simultaneously connect with God.

Useful links

- › <https://toucantgether.com/> - a free app to strengthen couple relationships
- › https://ted.adventist.org/images/Family/Free_Family_Worship_Resources_links.pdf - 52 family worship ideas that you can do with your family.
- › <http://ubdavid.org/kids-world/kids.html> - A website with lots of Bible material parents can explore with their kids.
- › https://ted.adventist.org/images/Kindness_at_church1.pdf - some of these ideas are not suitable for lockdown, but some are, and some could be adapted to be online.

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