



THE SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDE

TO USING GROW CURRICULUM IN YOUR YOUTH MINISTRY

Grow Students Curriculum is as easy to use online as it is in person . . . or in person with a little social distancing. In this guide to socially distanced youth ministry, we'll show you how to adapt every aspect of Grow for an in-person environment: the **planning** resources, **teaching** resources, **games, discipleship** activities, **volunteer** and **parent** resources, and even the **events**. But remember, these are just ideas. You're in charge here. Do what you want!



ANNUAL PLANNING

Grow gives you everything you need to plan your entire year in every area of ministry, but how you host your Annual Planning meeting might need to shift in order to accommodate social distancing. Here's how . . .

- Hold your **Annual Planning Meeting** in person with just a few key leaders using the Annual Planning Meeting Video, Meeting Guide, and Grow Calendar Cards. Don't forget to follow all safety guidelines from your local government. Or . . .
- Hold your **Annual Planning Meeting** online through a video call. Instead of building a physical board, use the spreadsheet version of our Annual Calendar and share your screen as you work. Check out our **Online Ministry Guide** for more details!



TEACHING

You'll need to find the teaching format that works best for you and your students! That's why Grow Students provides our teaching material in different formats to help you find the format that works when your numbers are down.

- Use the **Hybrid Guide** to keep your teaching discussion-based if you have fewer than 25 students or have shifted your teaching time to small volunteer-led groups.
- Adapt any activities that require close physical contact or involve food.
- Follow all safety guidelines from your local government.
- Check out our **Online Ministry Guide** during the week to connect with students who didn't attend in person.



DISCIPLESHIP

With Grow, our discipleship strategy is based on four spiritual habits: spending time with others, using your gifts, spending time with God, and sharing your story. Here's how to use the discipleship resources we provide in a socially-distanced way . . .

- Most **Discipleship Activities** require no adaptations! Hooray!
- For activities that require student interaction, follow all safety guidelines from your local government or move the interactions online.
- Check out our **Online Ministry Guide** during the week to engage students who didn't attend in person.



GAMES

Grow gives you 50 new games every year, and then we pair those games with our series based on the series theme or topic. But since most of these games are meant to be played in person, here's how we suggest adapting your strategy for fun and games . . .

- Adapt any games that require close physical contact or involve food by replacing them with an alternative game from the **Grow Games** library.
- Follow all safety guidelines from your local government.
- Check out our **Online Ministry Guide** during the week to have some fun with students who didn't attend in person.



VOLUNTEERS

While Grow gives you a robust volunteer strategy in seven key areas (events, meetings, discussion groups, conversations, celebrations, communication, and tools), you may need to rethink (or scale back) that strategy for a season. Here's how . . .

- Make sure your team is practicing and enforcing safety guidelines. Provide masks and hand sanitizer if needed.
- Follow all safety guidelines from your local government.
- Check out our **Online Ministry Guide** to connect with and train your team online.



PARENTS

While Grow gives you a robust parent engagement strategy in four key areas (events, discussion groups, communication, and tools), you may need to rethink (or scale back) that strategy for a season. Here's how . . .

- Clearly communicate your ministry plans and safety policies with signs and friendly volunteers ready to answer parents' questions.
- Check out our **Online Ministry Guide** to engage online.



EVENTS

While Grow gives you everything you need to create a ton of really fun in-person events during the year, you may need to rethink that strategy for a season, either by adapting our events or by saving them for a later date. Here's how . . .

- Adapt the **Grow Event Guides** to be done in small groups or as drive-through events, so social distancing can be easily enforced.
- Get outside perspective on the logistics for every event from a variety of ministry leaders, parents, and teenagers.
- Or save your **Event Guides** for a big Welcome Back party when it's safe to gather!
- Check out our **Online Ministry Guide** during the week to engage students who didn't attend in person.

and don't forget . . .

WE'RE CREATING DETAILED ONLINE HACKS FOR EVERY SERIES, DISCIPLESHIP ACTIVITY, AND EVENT IN VOLUME 4! YOU CAN FIND THEM IN YOUR DOWNLOADS FOR EACH RESOURCE.