**Youth Group**

**What is Church 2020?**

**​Preparation beforehand:**

1. Make sure to send out an email to your Youth Group reminding them of your upcoming Youth Group online (my preferred platform is Zoom so that I can interact with the Youth and it is private and secure)
2. If using Zoom remember to send out the Zoom link, meeting ID & Password (it is always good practice to enable the ‘waiting room’ feature on Zoom so that you can only let in those you know
3. In this email remember to include any supplies that the Youth will need to do before the Youth group gathering or have with them throughout the gathering

**Program Outline**

**Gathering and Welcome**

* Greet each Youth as you let them into the Zoom Meeting (I like to acknowledge each by name so that they know that I can see them and that they feel a part of the gathering)
* Lighting of the Christ Candle
	+ While lighting the Christ Candle I like to say: “There was once someone who said and did amazing things that people started to follow him, and as they followed him they just had to ask who he was, and when they asked he said ‘I am the Light of the World’”.

I have been using this with my youth for years and continue to do it with them because it gives them a sense of normalcy to our online zoom gatherings

**Check In:**

* Optional questions could include - How are you? What has been a highlight for you this week? What are you being challenged by this week?
* Opening Prayer: God, thank you for coming into our home tonight. Your presence is constant and needed. Our gathering looks different tonight, but we know your love is the same no matter where we meet. Prepare our hearts for the message you have and forgive me for anything which is standing of the way of that message. God, be here in our home this day. Amen.

**Read: Acts 2:1-13**

 Discuss

* Have you heard this scripture before?
* What do you notice?

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**Video: “Define Church -Chuck Knows Church” -https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NBTQ1HDWeSM**

 Discuss

* How do you define church?
* What did you like about what Chuck said?
* What challenged you about what Chuck Said?
* What does the Church mean to you?
* Is Church changing? How?
* What does it feel like to be church online like this?
* If the story of Pentecost that we read today happened right now – what would be the scenario? What do you imagine would happen?
* How do you see the Church in 50 years?

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**Take-home Activity (or you could create it on the Zoom whiteboard together!):**

* Create a brainstorm or draw a poster or make a comic: how do you see the Church changing in the next 50 years to be more welcoming of every one of every race, culture, background, status, sexual orientation, and gender identity?
* Ask the youth to share it by emailing it to the leader so they can accumulate the responses and send it out to participants.

**Closing Prayer**

Close with prayer yourself or ask one of the youth to lead the group in prayer.