



News Story Summary

Because of the pandemic, churches are finding new ways to reach out to their congregations and the larger community, sometimes connecting with more people than they did when they were meeting in person. Many are streaming their worship service online, Bible study groups have learned to use online tools, and some have rediscovered making personal phone calls. But it's not all just changing to online services and an increase in attendance resulting from the pandemic. Some churches are reaching out to their fellow congregants and the larger community with things such as food drives and making masks.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the term “churches adapt during pandemic”.)

Focus Attention

To replace the Roll Play idea under Focus Attention, begin by inviting the group to identify how “doing” church has changed during the pandemic. After most have arrived, say: *We may be tempted to think the pandemic is limiting the church’s outreach. However, it may be just the opposite.* Share some information from the news summary, noting how the reach of the church is increasing and people are reaching out to their neighbors in new ways. Say: *In today’s lesson, Paul encourages Christians to reach the lost for Christ, knowing that it is a team effort just like it is today during the pandemic.* Complete the step using the Transition suggestion.

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement the Key Doctrine idea under Summarize and Challenge, review the Key Doctrine and then remind the group of the news summary. Lead the group to identify actions from the news summary that relate to each category of action in the Key Doctrine (missionary, educational, and benevolent ministry). Challenge them to consider actions the group may need to take under each category as well. Transition into the Discuss idea as the group shares actions.