Sharing worship online: the basics!

Here are a few tips and things to think about if you’re considering putting together an online video service at this time:

• Start off short and simple – you can always get more complicated later
• Choose between live (quicker and less expectation of perfection) or pre-recorded (more post-production but less worry about mistakes)
• Pick a camera or use a smartphone. Live-streaming offers further options, including via webcam
• Get to know your camera well – including how long it can record for – and try to avoid zooming
• Choose how to share – we suggest Facebook, YouTube (for live or pre-recorded) or Vimeo (only pre-recorded)
• Use closed groups for more-intimate gatherings like prayer meetings
• Subjects should fill the frame, be front-lit and not have confusing backgrounds
• Get a tripod – wobbly shots make the viewer feel seasick!
• Use a microphone for sound – viewers have to be able to hear clearly everything that is happening
• Have a run-through before recording or going live – make your mistakes offline!
• Consider your audience and don’t use language that could confuse and exclude
• Remember copyright – don’t use what you don’t own!
• Share songsheets and collect prayer requests – this can be an interactive experience
• Spread the load by working with nearby corps/churches

For news, updates, and more resources relating to the coronavirus, please visit sar.my/covid19