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How to...



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Find useful resources online

Many of the resources we use in our ministry with children and young people are predominately found online. Unlike the children and young people we serve, some of us have not grown up in a digital age, meaning we often feel like we are playing catch up. The internet can feel like a mass of information (which it is!) and when it comes to accessing resources online, we have no idea where to start.

Here are some 'Top Tips' to help you, when you are searching online for appropriate and useful resources to use in your ministry with children, young people and families:

1. Use a well-known search engine such as 'Google Search', 'Bing Search' or 'Yahoo Search'.
2. Have a clear idea of what you are looking for. For example, you need some activities linked to the 'The Good Samaritan' for 11-14 year olds.
3. In the search box enter 'The Good Samaritan 11-14 year olds' – if you are specifically looking for a game or Bible study or craft activity, ensure you type that in as well.
4. Keep it short: The fewer words you use, the more accurate your search will be. Every time you add a new word to the mix, you limit your results.
5. Use quotes: Double quotes around a set of words tells Google to consider the exact words in that exact order without any change. This may not be appropriate for all searches, but it can be a helpful tip to know.
6. The amount of search results produced may seem daunting. Often the results most closely linked to your search request, can be found on the first 2 or 3 pages of the search results. It is likely that the more often you use this method to find resources, you will find a selection of websites that suit your context and that you find helpful. You may like to 'Bookmark' them or save them to your 'Favourites' so that you don't always have to go through a search engine to find them.

7. If the search gives you a selection of results that are unhelpful or are not what you are looking for, there are a number of key words worth adding to the search: try adding 'Christian', 'Church', 'Bible' or 'Ministry' to the end of the key search words you have typed in.
8. CAUTION: Ensure that you understand the content of the resources before using them with children or young people. The danger of searching online is that anyone can put things onto the internet and their beliefs and theology may not match up with your own. Beware! Some people will have a very different agenda to ours when posting things online. As you would for any printed, hard copy resource, always prepare well, read through the resources and adapt appropriately for your group/context.
9. This YouTube Video has some great tips on how to 'Google like a pro'
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R0DQfwc72PM>
10. In the event of you searching online and being unable to find anything appropriate for your group or event, please contact the Go Team Advisers at the Diocese. We are only too happy to help in enabling you to find the right resources for your context.

For any further advice or help, contact your Archdeaconry based Go Team Adviser:
<https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/ministry/children-young-people/>

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