

The following is borrowed from Vienna Baptist Church in Vienna, VA (<http://viennabc.org/>), and gives some tips on recording of videos.

Technical Notes for Recording

I've included below the technical guidance on recording videos from our video editor who has a background in film and television. May not be new information for you but it's been really helpful for me so I thought I would share.

Recording Device

You don't necessarily need a high quality camera to record your sermon. Since this all began, I've filmed videos on my iPhone. If you want to use a cell phone, just make sure you have the phone recording horizontally. Our youth pastor uses her laptop so you can also use a computer if that works better for you. Of course, if you have access to a high definition camera you are more than welcome to use that for recording.

Angle and Shot

If possible, try to have the camera lens at eye-level or just slightly above. That way the video is looking straight at you rather than looking up or down at you. You also want a little "headspace" or room above your head so your hair isn't cut off in the shot. I recommend sitting or standing about 3 feet away from the camera. We're trying to create a more intimate worship experience so being close is better than a wide shot of you in an empty room.

Leave Some Margins

Always leave a 3 - 4 second period of stillness at the beginning and end of each video segment for editing purposes. You can just smile for a few seconds before beginning and then stay smiling for a few seconds before ending the recording.

Lighting and Reading in a Room

Try to have your light source in front of you and above your head in a well-lit room. One of the best ways to do this is film while you are facing a window (I've also added a lamp in front of me as well). It's best to have 6-8 feet of space behind you with a simple background (bookcase, fireplace, house plant, pictures on the wall). Sitting a few feet from the wall also helps eliminate shadows, which can be very distracting.

Our video tech writes, "My ideal when I'm FaceTiming with someone is to sit near to and facing a window with the rest of the room open behind me. Turn on a couple of lights in the room so that it isn't too dark."

Reading in a smaller room like an office or apartment living room is better than a large room for sound quality (unless you're mic'd).

Teleprompters

In video, especially in close shots, looking down at our manuscripts is very noticeable. Unless you plan on memorizing your sermon, it's probably best to create a teleprompter of sorts. I just use a computer monitor that I set up behind the camera and because the video shot is from my mid-chest up, no one sees me scrolling through it on my laptop. Also, putting the monitor behind the camera lens means even when I'm reading the words on the screen, it looks like I'm making eye contact with the camera.

I've also heard of some apps you can use on your phone that function like an automatic scrolling teleprompter (one friend uses "TelePrompTer" on his iPhone) but I can't give any detailed advice on these apps.

Attire

In this time of quarantine, we are leading worship in business casual attire (I've dropped the sport coat though). You can watch a few worship services to get a feel of what we're wearing if that's helpful. You are also welcome to be more dressed up if you want to.

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