FREE CHURCH RESOURCE

CHURCH LIVESTREAM SETUP CHECKLIST

Use the gear you already own. Make the people at home feel like they're in the room.

From Simple Church Stream · Workflow Vantage

1 GEAR CHECK

- [ ] Two or three iPhones or iPads to use as cameras. A volunteer's phone works fine.
- [ ] One iPad, or a newer Mac (Apple Silicon), to run the production and switch cameras
- [ ] A tripod or clamp mount for each camera ($15–30 each; a music stand works in a pinch)
- [ ] Chargers and long cables at every camera position
- [ ] Reliable Wi-Fi in the sanctuary, with every device on the same network
- [ ] An audio feed from the soundboard through a small audio interface (USB-C or Lightning, to match your device)

Have 4 of these 6? You can likely stream this Sunday. The missing pieces are usually inexpensive. The exception is Wi-Fi: if the signal is weak in the sanctuary, fix that first, because no app can make up for it. Before your first service, check that your devices are on the streaming app's supported-device list.

2 CAMERA PLACEMENT

CAMERA 1

Center back, wide

The whole platform. Your safety shot: cut here whenever you're unsure.

CAMERA 2

Side, 30–45°

Tight on the pulpit or worship leader.

CAMERA 3 (OPTIONAL)

Reverse or roaming

Congregation, baptisms, choir.

- [ ] One director switches angles. You only need camera operators if a camera moves.
- [ ] Two well-placed, steady cameras beat five shaky ones.

3 OFFERING INSIDE THE STREAM

- [ ] Use the giving platform you already have (PayPal, Givelify, Tithe.ly)
- [ ] Show the giving link on screen during the offering, not only in the description
- [ ] Assign someone to greet online viewers by name in the chat

4 FIVE MISTAKES THAT MAKE STREAMS LOOK HOMEMADE

1. **Using the camera's built-in mic.** Pull audio from the soundboard instead. Viewers forgive a soft picture long before they forgive bad sound.
2. **Shooting vertical.** Hold every camera horizontal for the service. Save vertical for social clips.
3. **No lyrics or scripture on screen.** People at home can't see the projector. Put the words on the stream.
4. **Going live right at service time.** Start about 5 minutes early with a countdown or welcome slide, so people have time to find you.
5. **Streaming to only one place.** Go live on Facebook and YouTube at the same time so members can watch where they already are.

5 SUNDAY MORNING RUN-THROUGH

- [ ] Every device charged and plugged in, Do Not Disturb turned on
- [ ] All cameras connected and showing a picture
- [ ] Audio from the board tested: speak into the pulpit mic and watch the levels
- [ ] Lyrics, scripture and giving slides loaded
- [ ] Countdown or welcome slide ready to go live 5 minutes early
- [ ] Someone assigned to watch the chat

PUTTING IT ALL TOGETHER

The tool I recommend for this is Switcher Studio. It turns your iPhones and iPads into a wireless multicam setup, so one volunteer can switch angles, add lyrics and scripture, and stream to Facebook and YouTube at once.

14-day free trial. A credit card is required to start; you can cancel anytime. Plans and prices change, so check the current pricing before you sign up.

Start the free trial: start.switcherstudio.com/workflow-worship

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