Since we currently aren’t able to be with the people of our church in large gatherings where we are good at sharing ministry, doing so via video content that encourages and teaches folks becomes more important. Here are some simple ideas to help you shoot a better quality video on your phone.

**CLEAN OFF YOUR CAMERA**

When your phone has been in your pocket all day or pressed up against your face, oils create a film on your camera lens. Do yourself a favor and give it a nice wipe with your shirt or sleeve to assure a clear image.

**ALWAYS SHOOT HORIZONTALLY**

Unless you are shooting exclusively for IGTV, always shoot horizontally in “landscape framing”. Shooting in this way makes your content look good on most of the places it will appear, whether on a website or a social platform.

**FRAME YOUR VIDEO IN AN INTERESTING WAY**

Don’t crop too tight, cutting off your head and making yourself appear unusually large in the frame. Don’t leave too much space around you either. Try to create a pleasing frame with yourself slightly off center, a nice background, as well as some foreground to create depth. You should occupy approximately 50-60% of the frame. Try to keep the camera lens at eye-level if possible.

**CHECK YOUR EXPOSURE AND USE NATURAL LIGHT IF AT ALL POSSIBLE**

Natural daylight is always best. Shoot outside or in a large room that is well-lit by indirect sunlight. Position yourself so that the source of light is in front of you and a bit to one side. The best place to shoot inside is facing a window, which will avoid any odd shadows on your face. However, also make sure you are five feet away from the window so the light doesn’t completely wash you out. Do not shoot yourself silhouetted against a brightly lit background but make sure your background also has some light on it. Most phone cameras have auto-focus features. Please use it :-) You can usually activate it by touching your screen and holding your finger there while in video mode. If you are not sure how to do so, you can Google “auto-focus my phone” or search for that on YouTube.

**AUDIO IS THE TOUGH PART**

Most phones will make your audio sound like it has an echo if you are recording in a small space, such as an office or bedroom. That is okay, but you can improve your audio quality by shooting in a larger room. For instance, you can shoot in an empty garage with the door open and the neighborhood behind you. If the weather is nice, shoot outside in a backyard or on a back deck. The larger and quieter the space you shoot in, the better your audio will sound.

**USE THE HIGHEST RESOLUTION POSSIBLE**

Generally speaking, the higher the resolution, the better the video. However, higher resolution video takes up a lot of storage. Use the settings shown at the left when you shoot; they are a good balance between resolution and storage. If you are going to shoot something where there is a lot of movement, consider selecting the same 1920x1080 resolution, but at 60 fps.