

# Family Newsletter

*A Resource for Families to Grow in Christ Together*

## From Pastor Luke

Today's Newsletter is intended to serve as a survival kit of sorts. But, as Christians our definition of "survival" is not like the rest of the world. Indeed, we desire to be good stewards of our bodies and our homes, so wisdom in following CDC guidelines is something to which we should all be adhering. We also care for our neighbor by doing whatever is required to eliminate the spread of COVID-19. However, we as Christians are a part of a noble heritage of saints who counted others as more significant than themselves (Phil. 2:1-11). Christianity has historically stayed when others ran. We have moved towards suffering when others have pulled away. There is a reason the vast majority of hospitals have Christian origins. Whether or not we survive this COVID-19 will depend on more than simply being alive when this whole things has passed. May our faith survive. May our Christianity survive. May our souls survive. How we handle this crisis could possibly be the greatest lesson on love that we could teach our children. They will tell stories of how we handled this as Christians- for good or for ill. Today's newsletter will provide a lot of thoughts on how your faith can survive COVID-19, so that the world will see how we handled this and glorify our Father who is in heaven (Matt. 5:16).

As part of our desire to minister to you in this season, you will be receiving daily newsletters to guide you in devotions and processing. If you would like any particular questions or prompts to be addressed, please feel free to reply to this email.

Please remember that I am here to serve you and your kids. If you would like to connect for any reason, I am available. You can reply to this email and we can find a time to call, FaceTime, or text.

God bless,  
Pastor Luke  
Associate Pastor  
Family and Student Discipleship



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## Past Christians Teaching Us Today

As I mentioned in my introduction to this newsletter, we have a noble ancestry of Christians who, motivated by love, saw the Gospel opportunity in the midst of crises and suffering. Check out the three articles below to have your faith bolstered by those who have gone before us. Let us see their selflessness and trust in God, and be moved to follow their example. Let us see their

trust in a fuller and eternal life yet to come, and live as a people who believe that Jesus is King and Jesus will one day make all things new. May we be marked by faith, hope, and love (1 Cor. 13:13) like brothers and sisters from generations before us have.

Crisis is not new. Suffering is not new. Let us learn from those who have kept the faith during some of the hardest of times.

From the Early Church

From C.H. Spurgeon

From C.S. Lewis

## 5 Lessons from Spurgeon's Ministry in a Cholera Outbreak

MARCH 17, 2020 — GEOFF CHANG



## Discipleship in the Home

Strange days and troubling times, yet there remains a blessed opportunity before us. We cannot neglect it. We are living in a "pause" on normal life. We have a chance at a reset on the way that we have been living. This "quarantine" lifestyle is a chance to implement family rhythms of discipleship that can outlast COVID. We cannot miss this opportunity!

PDF on Family Formation during COVID

## Reaching Out as Neighbors

"Who was the neighbor?" Jesus asks the lawyer after sharing the parable of the Good Samaritan. The response could only be, "The one who showed mercy." was the response. Jesus then commissions the lawyer, and all of us, to "Go and do likewise." It is in times like this that we find out if we will truly follow the way of Jesus as He calls us to be a people of mercy. In the article attached, Elijah Elkins says, "Now is the time for the church to rise, and move towards others in faith when everyone else is pulling away in fear." The article has a "social distancing conscious" approach to serving those around us- to being neighbors who show mercy. Give the article a read, then click the link below to access the PDF card referenced.

View the Article

PDF Card

**Hello** If you are self-isolating, I can help.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ My phone number is \_\_\_\_\_

I live locally at \_\_\_\_\_

If you are self-isolating due to COVID-19 I can help with:

Picking up shopping  Posting mail  Prayer

A friendly phone call  Urgent Supplies

Just call or text me, and I'll do my best to help you (for free!)

Coronavirus is contagious, therefore I will take every precaution to ensure I'm spreading only kindness. I will seek to avoid physical contact (2m distance), wash hands regularly, and leave any items on your doorstep.

**"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." -Jesus Christ**

## A Final Prayer

*May the Lord bless you, and keep you.  
May He make His face to shine upon you.  
May He give you wisdom in uncertainty.  
May He give you peace in the face of fear.  
May He give you strength when you feel weak.  
May He give you hope in the midst of unknown.  
May He fill you with the love of Christ.  
May He give you eyes to see your neighbor.  
May He bring renewal to your home.*

*And in all things, may He be glorified. May Christ  
be exalted. And May more and more voices be  
lifted in worship of the One True God.*

*In the matchless name of Christ.  
Amen.*