

SURVIVING COVID

AN INTERVIEW WITH KELLEE & STUART HALL

As the world continues to face the challenges caused by COVID-19, it seems like the perfect time to hear one specific, personal story within this larger, global event. It's so easy to forget that in the middle of something that may merely seem like a topic of current events for many of us, thousands of families across the world are experiencing unprecedented stress and grief. Stuart Hall has helped people all across the country grow in their faith and ministry, and this spring he found himself suffering with COVID-19, which caused a heart attack and bacterial infection that nearly killed him. In the process, the Hall family experienced both the sacrificial love of so many doctors, nurses, and neighbors, but also the uncertainty that comes from facing the fact that despite all of our attempts to make life comfortable and safe, living is still an exercise in navigating pain and uncertainty alongside a God who promised that we would experience both.

Start Talking

1. What stories have given you hope during such a crazy, stressful time for the world?

Looking Back

1. Who comes to mind when you think about the people around you who don't share your beliefs? Without turning this person into a project, how did you create conversations and connections with them last week?
2. What did you do to "make it easy" for those turning to God this past week?
3. Think back on your vision of what the church could and should be known for in this community. What did you do in recent days to help make that into a reality?
4. Who did you start conversations with this week? How did you pursue common ground with them?



What About You?

1. What details stuck out to you in Stuart's story? Why?
2. Stuart's experience was largely a series of peaks and valleys, moments of hope followed by moments of despair. How have you experienced this dynamic in recent months?
3. Kellee Hall mentioned the confusion she feels when considering the fact that so many families have not experienced a happy ending to their struggle with COVID-19, but have instead found themselves mourning lost loved ones. Can you relate to that feeling?
4. When have tragic or challenging circumstances changed your outlook on life? How?
5. When it comes to God, do you have more trouble believing He's fundamentally good, or that He's fundamentally in control? Why?
6. Stuart says that attempting to avoid pain will inevitably leave us feeling like failures. What do you think an alternative approach to life would look like?

Putting It All Together

1. Stuart compared the sacrificial actions of so many medical personnel to Jesus's statement that there is no greater love than a person's willingness to sacrifice their own life for their friends. When have you experienced this kind of love? How can you carry it into your own interactions moving forward?
2. The Hall family talked about the complicated process of knowing God might choose an outcome they liked, or an outcome that took a family member from them. What was their response like? What did it reveal to them about the nature of God and life in a broken world?
3. Stuart talked about the temptation to idolize certainty. Why do you think that's such a temptation for so many of us? What would a better response look like?
4. How can you prepare to safely mobilize in order to help the people in your circle who get sick themselves, as well as their families? What does love require of you in this situation?
5. What can you take from Stuart and Kellie's story about what it means to maintain faith even when it seems like outcomes aren't going the way you want them to?
6. Stuart mentioned that one of America's character flaws is our inability to consider other people before ourselves. How can you practically and actively care about the people around you while this virus is spreading?

