

CCAC Response to COVID-19

15 MARCH 2020

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Outline

1. Background
2. Ministry in March
3. General Encouragements
4. Reflection on Ephesians 2:11-22

Background

Context

- COVID-19
- Governor's recommendation on groups >250
- Impact of large groups on spread of disease

Clarifications

- There are no known cases among our church
- We do not act out of fear or panic
- We take the situation appropriately seriously

Affirmations

- We honor our government as much as we can
(Rom 13:1-7)
- We love our neighbors (Gal 6:10) and one another
(John 13:34-35)
- We trust the Lord who is good and sovereign over all
(Rom 8:28)

Ministry in March

Overview for March

- Sunday services online
- Other large group events cancelled
- Special events postponed
- Other ministries to continue
- Lean into smaller group ministry

Sunday Service Online

- 3/22 and 3/29
- Livestream via Facebook at 9AM
- Meet together with Growth Groups to watch

Other Large Group Activities

- No Friday night ministries 3/20 and 3/27
- No refreshments 3/15, 3/22, and 3/29
- No Sunday second hour 3/15, 3/22, and 3/29
- No children's ministries 3/15, 3/22, and 3/29

Special Events

- Lunch on the Patio (4/5) postponed; date TBD
- Women's Tea (4/25) postponed; date TBD
- Good Friday (4/10) and Easter Sunrise Service (4/12): TBD

Other Ministries to Continue

- Midweek smaller group events (e.g. MBS, WBS)
- Ministry team meetings (e.g. GB, elders)
- Office hours
- Ministry leaders: talk to your elder, use discretion

Beyond March

- The situation is changing rapidly
- Church life may look very different for a season
- We'll keep us posted

Next Steps: GG Leaders

- Organize livestream “watch party”
- Keep up with those who choose to self-isolate
- Try to meet for prayer and encouragement
- Invite folks who might not belong to a GG
- Contact your elder to let him know of your plans

Next Steps: Ministry Leaders

- Assess how the new guidelines impact your ministry
- Think creatively about how to maintain ministry within the new guidelines
- Contact your elder to let him know of your plans

Next Steps: Everyone

- Join a GG or fellowship group
- Subscribe to The Connection via website
- Inform your GG leader or an elder of special needs
- Give online or by text

Greenhouse Kids @ Home



1. Go to my.lifeway.com/redeem
2. Register if you are a new user or log in if you already have an account
3. Enter this redemption code: **VZMD4SSQ38**
4. Click "Access" (if prompted to sign in again, sign in), then click "My Dashboard," and go to LifeWay Kids at Home
5. Download your Activity Page and One Conversation Sheet to use as you watch the video session

Encouragements

In Love, Take Health Precautions

- Feel free to stay home if necessary (sick, elderly, medical issue, etc.), but tell someone if you do
- Wash hands, especially after social interactions
- Keep common surfaces clean
- Social distancing

In Love, Take Advantage of Opportunities

- Talk to your kids
- Connect with neighbors and friends, and engage them with the gospel
- Press into community and care for one another

Be Encouraged

- God is our heavenly Father (Matt 6:25-34), so we don't have to be **anxious**
- God is good and sovereign over all (Rom 8:28), so we don't have to be in **control**
- Our life is hidden with Christ in God (Col 3:3), so we don't have to be **afraid**

Ephesians 2:11-22

Structure

- Then/Now (11-13)
- The Cause (14-18)
- Then/Now (19-22)

Then/Now: The Far Brought Near

Therefore...remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ (2:11-13)

Then/Now: The Far Brought Near

- Then: Gentiles were outside of God's covenant people, Israel (11-12)
- Now: in Christ, Gentiles have been brought near to God (13)

Then/Now: Strangers to Family

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God... (2:19)

Then/Now: Strangers to Family

- Then: Gentiles were strangers and aliens to the people of God (19a)
- Now: in Christ, Gentile and Jewish believers are a new people of God (19b-22)

The Cause: Jesus Christ

For he himself is our peace (2:14)

The Cause: Jesus Christ

- Horizontal peace: Jesus killed the hostility between Gentile and Jew by fulfilling the Law
(14-15)
- Vertical peace: Jesus killed the hostility between humans and God by paying the penalty for sin
(16-18)

Summary and Implications

- Unity and community are not things we create, but a reality created by Christ that we live into
- Because Jesus already made the first move, we don't wait for the other person to move before we do

Encouragement for This Season

1. Cherish fellowship
2. Pursue fellowship
3. Remember fellowship

“Christian brotherhood is not an ideal which we must realize; it is rather a reality created by God in Christ in which we may participate. The more clearly we learn to recognize that the ground and strength and promise of all our fellowship is in Jesus Christ alone, the more serenely shall we think of our fellowship and pray and hope for it.”

– Dietrich Bonhoeffer

Prayer

Pray on your own or in your families for our church
and for our world

CCAC AND COVID-19

Pastor Erick Loh, Senior Pastor

March 15, 2020

Text: Ephesians 2:11-22

¹¹ Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands— ¹² remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. ¹³ But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. ¹⁴ For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility ¹⁵ by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, ¹⁶ and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. ¹⁷ And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. ¹⁹ So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, ²¹ in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. ²² In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.

Notes