

### 3 – Sharing The Gospel In A COVID-19 World

“<sup>15</sup> But in your hearts set apart Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” -- 1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)



**The COVID-19 Pandemic has changed the way we currently live.** The impact of social distancing has affected everyone during this time. What has God called us to do even during this delicate and challenging time?

We know that the Bible is true. We also know that we can stand on its Biblical Principles to guide and govern our lives. What does the Bible say about evangelism and sharing God’s Word during these challenging times?

In the book of Jonah, God called Jonah to go out of his “*comfort zone*” and preach to the great city of Nineveh (Jonah 1:2). **In Matthew 28:19, Jesus commands us ... “to make disciples of all nations.” In other words, Jesus wants us to teach others the things that He has taught us!**

**We owe our salvation to the fact that the Lord Jesus never socially distanced Himself from sinners.** So while we ourselves should maintain proper distance and use wisdom, we must also be driven by this same compassion which drove Christ to defy the conventions of His day in the name of love.

**Social distancing may change the way we share the Gospel, but it should not change the fact that we share it.** How do we teach others and get out of our comfort zone to share the Good News in the midst of a pandemic?

#### “Thinking Outside The Box”

What are some ways we can maximize these opportunities and share the gospel in this unique opportunity in human history? Here are a few practical ideas:

1. **“PRAY” for workers in the harvest field.** If we are going to be biblical, we must actually obey what Jesus said. He specifically told His disciples “*to pray for God to send workers.*” You can join our KIRCF *Real Prayer-line* 7 days a week @ 6AM and invite your friends to join us in prayer - (206) 279-9272 Access code: 838542#.

**Or You Can Even Start Your Own Prayer-line!** Set up a free prayer-line for your: **Co-workers** (for work issues, difficulties, drama etc.) ... **Neighbors** (for community issues, safety, children etc.) ... **Family** (for health issues, finances, safety etc.) ... **Friends** (for life issues, spiritual warfare etc.).

Pray daily for open doors and boldly take advantage of them. Create an impact list of people you pray for daily. You can even stop reading right now and pray for workers. Just know this: You are probably praying for *yourself* to be sent by God!

- 2. Post Positive Content To Social Media.** Don't be the person who blasts our government or curses at all the crazy people in the world, then posts a Christian message as if they are some saint. Be smart! There is a reason Dave Ramsey doesn't sell credit cards to college students. It would contradict his message of financial freedom from debt. In the same way, let's be sure we don't unintentionally contradict the Gospel message by what we post.
- 3. Consider Starting A Facebook / Instagram Live Post.** Facebook Live posts are always given priority on Facebook. They go to the top of the feeds. Use this to your advantage and start a consistent Facebook live post every day at the same time, offering prayer or a devotional to all who may watch. Don't know what to say? Just read from your favorite devotional, or better yet, read the Bible!
- 4. Private Message People (DM) Who Might Need Encouragement.** As you scroll through the many social media posts, you might come across a post that screams "Help me!" If this happens, send that person a quick private message of encouragement. If they ask for prayer, consider recording the prayer out loud and sending them the audio. There is something about a real audio prayer that changes hearts!
- 5. Invite People To Join You For An Online Church Service.** This past Sunday, social media was filled with "watch parties" hosted by people all around the world featuring these live videos of worship services. It was beautiful to see the body of Christ mobilize online. **Sometimes it is easier to invite a friend to a watch party than to a live service.** Gather as many friends as possible for this coming Sunday!
- 6. Start or Join An Online Bible Study Using An Online Platform.** There are many tools to use to host an online gathering, including Bible studies. Some platforms include: Zoom, Cisco Webex, Google Hangouts Meet etc.

**Be prepared to answer questions biblically.** What if someone asks you a difficult question? Don't be afraid! First, Jesus promised us the Holy Spirit would give us the answers we need when we need them. But sometimes the best answer to give is ... "I don't know, but I will find out." This is a much more respectable answer to give than to answer incorrectly. Now's the perfect time to invite a handful of your skeptical friends to explore what Christians believe and ask spiritual questions without judgment!

7. **Go Old School.** *Remember the days before the internet and text messaging when we had to actually call people?* Well, why not try that again with those in our circle? Now, more than ever, people need to hear real voices! Isolation hurts. Let's make it personal as we look for ways to share the gospel during this crucial time in history!
  8. **Reach Out To A Lost Friend.** Ask how they're doing and how you might pray for them during this uncertain time. This is a perfect time to break the ice with non-Christian friends you've not spoken with in a while. *Go down your friend list and message everyone you know*, reach out to friends and set up times to catch up. Jump on Zoom or some other way you can see them face to face. ***I've never met anyone who was offended by an offer for prayer!*** Most people appreciate genuine care and concern.
  9. **Record Your Testimony And Share It On Facebook Live And Instagram Live.** Follow up personally with those who comment. Everyone is online now, and most have ... more time on their hands, so going live has great potential. *Using video apps like Facebook Live, Instagram Stories, and Tik-Tok videos also provides opportunities to share the gospel.*
- Prepare a two-minute testimony and casually share it via video on social media.** You may be surprised by how many views and comments you'll get. Encourage people to comment or message with questions. Consider answering questions live or take the conversation deeper via a direct message or by phone.
10. **Gospel Through Entertainment.** Music ministers, musicians and singers should use the opportunity of the social restrictions and availability of online tools ***to minister to a broad audience through gospel music.*** The music should be meaningful ... and offer solutions in terms of hope and leading people to Jesus Christ!

***COVID-19 Shouldn't Stop Evangelism ... Just Changes It!***