

## 1. In Times Like These, There Are Many:

### A. Concerns:

1. Our congregation's emotional well-being
2. Our congregation's health
3. Our congregation's financial well-being
4. Our congregation's spiritual well-being, including staying connected to church during this crisis
5. Our ministry's ability to make adjustments logistically
6. Our ministry's preparedness technologically
7. Our ministry's ability to effectively communicate
8. Our ministry's strength to weather this storm financially
9. Our own wisdom to lead well in this situation
10. Our own family's health, well-being and finances
11. Our own faith and emotional strength

### B. Opportunities

1. Be "present"

**1 Samuel 18:16 (NKJV)** But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them.

2. Calm the storms of people's hearts

**Mark 4:38–39 (NKJV)** But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?" **39** Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "**Peace, be still!**" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

3. Teach people to put their faith in God

**Mark 4:40 (NKJV)** But He said to them, "**Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?**"

4. Reach out to the many sheep without shepherds

**Matthew 9:36–38 (NKJV)** But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were weary and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. **37** Then He said to His disciples, "**The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. 38 Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.**"

5. Speak to those who are listening

**Luke 4:20 (NKJV)** ... and the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him.

6. Communicate to and serve your leaders and team members

**1 Kings 12:7 (NKJV)** And they spoke to him, saying, "If you will be a servant to these people today, and serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be your servants forever."

## 7. Use this situation to lead people where God wants them to go

**Genesis 50:20 (NKJV)** But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good, in order to bring it about as it is this day, to save many people alive.

## 2. We can neither solve all the problems nor take every opportunity, so what should we do?

**Acts 20:28 (NKJV)** Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

**2 Chronicles 20:3–12 (NKJV)** And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. ... **Verse 12** O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You.”

## 3. How Should We as Believers Respond?

### A. White House Task Force’s 15-Day Slow the Spread Campaign

THE PRESIDENT'S CORONAVIRUS GUIDELINES FOR AMERICA

## 15 DAYS TO SLOW THE SPREAD

Listen to and follow the directions of your **STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES**.

**IF YOU FEEL SICK**, stay home. Do not go to work. Contact your medical provider.

**IF YOUR CHILDREN ARE SICK**, keep them at home. Do not send them to school. Contact your medical provider.

**IF SOMEONE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD HAS TESTED POSITIVE** for the coronavirus, keep the entire household at home. Do not go to work. Do not go to school. Contact your medical provider.

**IF YOU ARE AN OLDER PERSON**, stay home and away from other people.

**IF YOU ARE A PERSON WITH A SERIOUS UNDERLYING HEALTH CONDITION** that can put you at increased risk (for example, a condition that impairs your lung or heart function or weakens your immune system), stay home and away from other people.

For more information, please visit [CORONAVIRUS.GOV](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

THE PRESIDENT'S CORONAVIRUS GUIDELINES FOR AMERICA

## DO YOUR PART TO SLOW THE SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS

Even if you are young, or otherwise healthy, you are at risk and your activities can increase the risk for others. It is critical that you do your part to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Work or engage in schooling **FROM HOME** whenever possible.

**IF YOU WORK IN A CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE INDUSTRY**, as defined by the Department of Homeland Security, such as healthcare services and pharmaceutical and food supply, you have a special responsibility to maintain your normal work schedule. You and your employers should follow CDC guidance to protect your health at work.

**AVOID SOCIAL GATHERINGS** in groups of more than 10 people.

Avoid eating or drinking at bars, restaurants, and food courts — **USE DRIVE-THRU, PICKUP, OR DELIVERY OPTIONS**.

**AVOID DISCRETIONARY TRAVEL**, shopping trips, and social visits.

**DO NOT VISIT** nursing homes or retirement or long-term care facilities unless to provide critical assistance.

**PRACTICE GOOD HYGIENE:**

- Wash your hands, especially after touching any frequently used item or surface.
- Avoid touching your face.
- Sneeze or cough into a tissue, or the inside of your elbow.
- Disinfect frequently used items and surfaces as much as possible.

[CORONAVIRUS.GOV](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

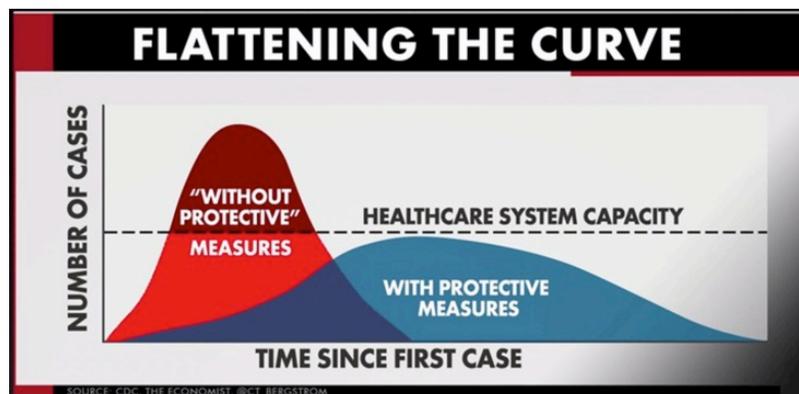
School operations can accelerate the spread of the coronavirus. Governors of states with evidence of community transmission should close schools in affected and surrounding areas. Governors should close schools to communities that are at risk of community transmission, even if those areas are neighboring states. In addition, state and local officials should close schools where coronavirus has been identified in the population associated with the school. States and localities that close schools need to address children's needs of critical importance as well as the needs of essential workers.

Other events are particularly at risk from the coronavirus. All states should follow Federal guidance and that social clubs, bars, restaurants, and other indoor and outdoor venues where groups of people congregate should be closed.

In states with evidence of community transmission, bars, restaurants, food courts, gyms, and other indoor and outdoor venues where groups of people congregate should be closed.

1. Social gatherings limited to 10
2. Avoid shaking hands, maintain social distance

### B. Flattening the Curve



C. **The Curves** represent (by height) the # of infected people at one time.

D. **The Key Metric** is the dotted line – the Healthcare System’s Capacity.

E. **The Concern** (according to NYT Article “Here’s the Biggest Thing to Worry About...” by Aaron E. Carroll – March 12, 2020) is that **the US only has:**

1. **2.8** hospital beds per 1k people... fewer than Italy (**3.2**), China (**4.3**) and South Korea (**12.3**), all of which struggled to keep up

- 2. **45k** ICU beds vs moderate projection of **200k** people needing one
- 3. **160k** ventilators vs **740k** needed (if CV19 follows Spanish Flu of 1918)

- F. **The Primary “Flattening the Curve” Goal** is not to reduce the overall number of infected people, but rather to reduce the number of infected people at any one time.
- G. **The Purpose** is to make sure that those who are most vulnerable to dying will have medical help available when they need it most.

#### 4. **Six Reasons Pastors Should Actively Encourage Compliance:**

##### A. **Submission to Authorities:**

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. **2** Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. (Romans 13:1–2 - ESV)

##### B. **Godliness and Reverence:**

Therefore I exhort first of all that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men, **2** for kings and all who are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and reverence. **3** For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior (1 Timothy 2:1–3 - NKJV)

C. **Faith AND Love:** Believers should walk in love with those who are most at risk.

D. **Slowing Disease Spread is Scriptural:** In Leviticus 13:1-6 God commands that potential lepers quarantined for 14 days (7+7) to assure they are not contagious.

E. **Priests Commanded to Declare Quarantines:** In Leviticus 13:1-6 God commands the priests to initiate the quarantines.

F. **God Commands Cleansing:** Leviticus 15 validates the hand washing guideline to stop the spread of disease.

#### 5. **Our Response:**

- A. Have all staff who can work from home do so
- B. Avoid unnecessary in-person meetings
- C. Conduct all services via Livestream, at least through March 31
- D. Encourage everyone to comply with the 15-Day Slow the Spread Plan

6. **Word from God:** David Dirmann asked the Lord, “What in the world is going on with Covid–19 and the limitations on church meeting, etc.? What do we do Lord?”

- A. Large leaders connected to Me will see this as an opportunity, not a limitation. See things this way!
- B. Constraints and limitations are blessings for creative people. They cause them to explore new options they would not have otherwise considered.
- C. Limiting the larger church gatherings actually creates an advantage; puts every church on a level playing field.
- D. I am going to level out big church mentality through this break down and thereby strengthen the church forcing them to think small group gatherings.
- E. Just go with it and watch what I do. You will have to make adjustments, but it is all for the good.

F. Son, do not wear yourself out going to bed late and rising early thinking you are going to solve this situation. Rest in Me, get your sleep, and keep a smile on your face and in your heart. Watch how I lead you, and how you lead others through this process. It will all work for My glory and for the good of My people.

**7. A Big Question: WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?**

**Exodus 21:12–13 (NKJV)** “He who strikes a man so that he dies shall surely be put to death. **13** However, if he did not lie in wait, but God delivered him into his hand, then I will appoint for you a place where he may flee.

A. **God is Using CV-19** for a variety of purposes:

1. Executing judgment to some nations and people groups
2. Shaking and warning many others, including many European countries and America.
3. Shaking, warning and preparing the Church in many countries, including America, for the days ahead.

**8. Bottom Line... It's Time to Shine:**

A. **Look to the Lord:** God will get you through this. We must hear the direction of the Lord, see the opportunity, and treat it like it is the way of the future.

B. **Thrive:** We should not approach this in survival mode, though you may feel that temptation. God is calling His Church to thrive.

C. **GO BIG... Reach Out:** 1) God wants us to grow during this season, 2) we must believe big, and act big, 3) we need to train our people to invite others to join.