

## WAYS TO SHARE THE HOPE OF THE GOSPEL

What follows is a menu of ideas that can help us stay focused on evangelism and discipleship even in times where movement is restricted. It would obviously be difficult to do all of what is listed below, but we are hoping that this resource will help you think through how we can be fruitful and focused in these great days of opportunity.

In all of these ideas and activities we don't want to lose sight of the precious promises and presence of Jesus. What He promised us in John 15:5 remains true. If we abide in Him and He in us, we will bear fruit. What He promised us in Zechariah 4:6 remains true. Not by might, not by power, but by His Spirit. What He promised us in Acts 1:8 remains true. We will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon us, and we will be witnesses. What He promised us in Matthew 28:20 remains true. He is with us even unto the end of the age.

We have globally been given the gift of a season where we can pray more and give attention to things close to home, lingering in His presence. Let us do that well! In these unique days may Jesus help us learn the mystery of union between resting deeply and working faithfully for Him.

### 1. PASTORAL PRAYER AND CARE

For those of us able to be out to run errands, take notice of those in line and how they often don't interact or greet one another. Put on a big smile and take initiative to greet them. Be ready with scriptures related to hope, joy, peace and be ready to tell them why you have that smile! Invite them to call you whenever they are afraid or need prayer. Then share your phone number. Offer to text them daily encouragement. If they are interested, ask for their number. Then follow through and text them a daily, encouraging Bible verse and a question of how you can pray for them that day.

Prayer is care! Constantly and repeatedly ask those you meet how you can pray with them and seek unashamedly to pray for them right there on the spot. People want to be cared about and cared for. Asking someone how you can pray for them shows you care, creates relational/spiritual conversation, gives you knowledge of the "now" pain, and gives you something to follow up on (conversation, next meeting). When we pray, God answers the prayer and they get a testimony of their personal interaction with Jesus that you can follow up on.

### 2. MAKE YOURSELF KNOWN IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Sign-up for the Nextdoor app and mark your home as one that is available to help others. Create a post to let people know you are praying for them and are willing to help them discover more about God's hope. Or, write a note to give to your neighbors.

Here is a link for a sample post or write-up you might consider using: <https://connectionpointchurch.org/home19/sample-post-you-can-use-on-the-nextdoor-app>

### 3. FOOD DELIVERY AND ACTS OF SERVICE

Prepare food packages (in responsible ways) that you can take to friends, neighbors, and the needy. Consider carrying some premade, non-perishable food packets in your car so you can be spontaneous and generous in distribution. Where appropriate include a scripture portion, or a card with a scripture verse.

Acts of Service/coming together does seem to be touching people's hearts as it is a time of 'need' for them that we don't normally have in our country. The grocery store, or the other few

places that still may be open, are still a place to meet people. Helping the elderly in the grocery store, striking up conversations on the grocery isle or at the gas station can help us create new contacts.

#### 4. MULTIPLY EXTRAORDINARY PRAYER

Pray daily for your neighbors. You can sign-up to be a light in your neighborhood at: <https://blesseveryhome.com>.

Prayer walk your neighborhood and pray for God's peace and protection to be upon each person and every home.

Join an Online Prayer Meeting (Mondays at 10am, Tuesdays at 12pm, Wednesdays at 7pm, Thursdays at 8:30pm, and Fridays at 6am.) Simply click on the following link at the appropriate weekday time: <https://zoom.us/s/775188695>.

#### 5. BACKYARD VBS (VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL)

You can host a one-DAY VBS-like experience in your backyard, living room, or a community park. If you can put on a child's birthday party, you can put on a one-day (couple of hours) VBS. It's a great way to make a difference in your neighborhood or apartment complex.

We supply you with everything you need to put the event together, all you need to do is host the event. For more information, simply email Pastor Mark at: [mwhitehead@connectionpointchurch.org](mailto:mwhitehead@connectionpointchurch.org).

#### 6. FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM, SNAPCHAT, TWITTER, ETC...

Post pictures of the greater Lafayette area with scripture prayers for our cities and our people. Use hashtags (#forgreaterlafayette, #wecare, etc...). Even if you didn't take the pictures yourself, you can often find free stock photography online.

Share the daily posts we share on the Connection Point Facebook and Instagram pages @cpcwl.

Join Facebook groups for an interest or hobby (sports, cooking, history, language). Comment and connect and then move the conversation to Messenger to bridge to the Gospel.

#### 7. THE CHOSEN, JESUS FILM, OTHER FILM CLIPS

"The Chosen" is a new TV show on the life of Jesus, and it is very well done! It is a series and is app based. It tells the story of Jesus through the eyes of a different New Testament character each episode. You can also send all kinds of other short video/film clips to pique interest.

Android: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.vidangel.thechosen>

Apple: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/the-chosen/id1473663873>

#### 8. CONNECTION POINT CHURCH ONLINE

Invite people within your social network to "join" you for online church services on Sunday. You can set-up a Facebook watch party to invite your friends to. Connection Point Church is live at 9am and 10:45am at: <http://online.connectionpointchurch.org>. Pick a service to attend and invite others to join you.

## 9. SERVE OTHERS IN OUR COMMUNITY

Sign-up to serve people dealing with food insecurity by emailing Pastor Jim Walsh at: [jwalsh@connectionpointchurch.org](mailto:jwalsh@connectionpointchurch.org). He will help you find a place to serve in the Connection Point Food Pantry.

You can also sign-up to serve people affected by homelessness at:

- Lafayette Transitional Housing - <https://lthc.net/contact-lthc>
- Lafayette Urban Ministry - <https://www.lumserve.org/volunteer/volunteer-sign-up-sheets>

## 10. SPECIFIC/THEMATIC QUESTIONS TO FRIENDS ON THE PHONE

Now is a great time to call up your friends and ask: “What do you think God is trying to say to us in all of this?” When worries are expressed, it is simple to pray and to share how we can have peace and joy, despite the circumstances.

## 11. CONNECTING WITH INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AT PURDUE

The nations are here! You can connect with international students from all over the world with the International Friendship Program. Many international students have remained on campus to be able to take classes this summer and fall. They are far from family and friends and would love the opportunity to visit online with local individuals and families willing to do so. Simply sign-up as and IFP host at: [https://www.iss.purdue.edu/Resources/Docs/Newsletter/IFP\\_COVID\\_19InstructionsHost.pdf](https://www.iss.purdue.edu/Resources/Docs/Newsletter/IFP_COVID_19InstructionsHost.pdf).

## 12. SCHEDULING EVANGELISM TIME INTO EVERY DAY

It can be helpful to commit to “X” amount of hours of evangelism from home every week. This can vary according to status (single, kids, etc), but we can all make some type of time commitment to broad sowing from home at a certain time of day. By scheduling it into our rhythm we can hold ourselves accountable to daily proclamation. This could include making the evangelism material (texts, videos, outreach gifts) as well as distributing them through the variety of digital means, and answering questions and messages.

## 13. BOLD, FEARLESS, LOVE AND TRUTH STATEMENTS

Often, a spirit that is bold, calm, peace oozing, gracious, and kind can serve as an antidote to the fear that is now running rampant. Make the conscious choice to open your mouth and talk, share, proclaim, witness, gospelize, and encourage. Take initiative, start conversations in hallways, stores, apartments, and streets. Prepare love and truth statements that are appropriate, some samples you can adapt:

- “I was having a hard time with the virus so I prayed to Jesus and He gave me this promise from His Word...”
- “I asked God for help and He...”
- “I read a wonderful story of hope and healing today. May I tell you about it?”
- “God taught me something about trust today.”
- “I read something really interesting about God today.”
- “Do you think God could stop the virus in all the world? Why do you think He has let it grow?”
- “Did you ever have a dream from God?”
- “I believe only with God there is hope for this virus and the world.”

- Mention something that you prayed for and how it was answered.

#### 14. TANDEM APP CONVERSATIONS

This app (12\$ for 3 months on the paid version) allows you to find conversation partners by age, gender, topic, country, and language. You can list on your profile what types of things you want to talk about (Faith, History, Culture, etc.). It is a great opportunity to meet new people under parameters (all in Arabic, about faith, etc).

#### 15. CHURCH AT HOME

You can have church with your family and others in a home or online setting. Click on the appropriate link to find out how:

With your family: <https://praxeis.org/wp-content/uploads/Households-of-faith-Final.pdf>

With your family and others: <https://zume.vision/articles/how-to-have-church-at-home>

#### 16. ZUME

Zúme Training is an on-line and in-life learning experience designed for small groups who follow Jesus to learn how to obey His great commission and make disciples who multiply. Zúme just did an update where you can cut and paste a specific lesson's URL (as opposed to having to go straight through a lesson start to finish with a group). This allows a group to intro whatever topic they think would be good for the group at the time, although there is tremendous value in going straight through the lessons in order, start to finish.

You can find these lessons here: <https://zume.training/training>