

**Here are some general principles to think about during this time and others like it:**

- 1.) **Fear.** Living your life in fear is never a good plan and only leads to more problems (for you and for others). There is much uncertainty and misinformation out there, so be careful, use caution and do not panic. If you feel yourself getting overwhelmed by uncertainty or anxiety, there are people you can turn to for help. We would love to help you!

*Consider: Is fear driving your actions and your responses? If so, is this a normal response for you? What if that response changed?*

- 2.) **Opportunity is there.** This isn't a time to simply think about ourselves but there are many people who are asking questions and looking for answers in a different way than they were before this hit our country. Let's look for opportunities to speak truth and hope where there is fear, confusion and anxiety. Let's look for openings to give. Let's have our eyes open for occasions to share Jesus.

*Consider: How can I be a blessing to a few or many during this time?*

- 3.) **God and hard times.** God didn't "do this to us" but he does know what is going on. The God of the bible is good, loving, available and has unlimited power. God brings help, direction and focus during times of hardship, trial and pain. To walk through these tough times without God or a community of people that you know support you and have your back (the Church) is unfortunate and unnecessary. God and the Church want to help you, would you allow us to do that?

*Consider: Now is as good a time as any to give God a shot. Why not?*

- 4.) **Don't give up meeting together.** As time and regulations persisted, we learned just how important it is to be together. God did not make us to live solo and God did not make the internet so that we can go to "church" in our underpants. As the Church adjusts to life the days and years after Covid hit, many will think it is a viable option to just move to an online format. We want to discourage this and encourage intentionality in relationship. Everyone knows their own situation but as often as you can, go be with your church family. The gathering of the saints is an "in person" weekly opportunity, take advantage.

*Consider: Have I allowed comfort and convenience to dictate journey with Jesus and my time with my brothers and sisters in Christ?*

- 5.) **Take advantage.** We want to encourage you to take advantage of this time. There may be no other time like it again (or it could be a sign of the things to come) so let's not just waste it in front of screens and in worry. Jesus has told us that God will take care of us (Matt. 6:25-34; 11:28-30), so let's trust Him and live accordingly!

*Consider: What does it mean to take advantage of the opportunity that God has before you today?*