



During this time of crisis, it is often difficult for us to know how to live out our Christian faith and find ways to reach out and minister to those in need. With this in mind, we have tried to create 5 Key Areas to focus our attention on and help us redeem our time during this stay home order: Self, Family/Friends, Church Family, Neighbors and Community.

Self

- Abide in Christ. (John 15)
- Love God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength.
- Pray without ceasing. (Virtual prayer guide video is coming on our resource page soon.)
- Read books that will grow you spiritually.
- Worship God through studying His word, music, etc.

Family/Friends

- Worship through Sunday Service LiveStream, Hymnology on Tuesday, Worship on Wednesday with Pastor Zeb, and through your Life Group either virtually or listening to the Thursday Life Group Lesson online. Make sure to share resources with family and friends including NextGen resources for kids and teens. <http://apexbaptist.org/resources>
- We also have a Spanish translation of the Sunday Sermon that will be posted every Monday. Help us get out word to Spanish speaking people who could benefit from watching Pastor Zeb's sermons!
- Check on loved ones and friends by making periodic phone calls.

Church Family

- Now is a great time to connect and reconnect with people within our church family. Pastor Peter and his group of volunteers are working hard to reach out to our senior adults both within and associated with our church. If you have connections with senior adults, please join in on calling and checking on them.
- Our staff is working through a list of individuals who have attended church but are not connected to a Life Group or D-Group. If you know of people that you can personally contact, please reach out to them, encourage them, and if possible, try to point them to a Life Group or D-Group that can help care for them on a regular basis.
- Our Life Group and D-Group leaders have been diligent to check on their members, and it is the best method we have to care for each other within our church.

Neighbors

- Be intentional in reaching out to people in your neighborhood who are at heightened risk (55+ years old, immunocompromised, healthcare workers) and those for whom the social restrictions are having a significant impact (single parents, hourly wage workers, those unable to stay home from work).
- Hopefully you already know your neighbors who fall into these categories, but if you don't the Nextdoor app is a great way to let the people in your neighborhood know you are willing to help.
- Go on walks if you are able and be intentional to pray for all of your neighbors as you pass their homes. When possible, ask for needs as you see your neighbors outside (keeping w/CDC guidelines of social distancing 6ft. apart). Here is a great article from the IMB that highlights how to approach Prayer Walking: <https://www.imb.org/2019/03/06/prayer-walking-neighborhoods/>



Community

- This is an unprecedented situation, and it will require us all to think creatively about how we can continue to live out our God-given charge to love our neighbors during this time and reach our community with the love of Christ.
- Contact your local schools, restaurants and small businesses you frequent, and even your own employer to inquire about how you can help families and workers who will be more deeply impacted economically by COVID-19. As we settle into this new normal of social distancing, hourly workers and businesses that rely on foot traffic will continue to be some of the most severely impacted as shifts are eliminated and layoffs occur.
- Give to Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina who work with local partners to determine the best way to serve our most vulnerable friends and neighbors—senior citizens and children (and their families) who are losing the daily school meals they rely on due to school closures. <https://foodbankcenc.org/>
- Support the healthcare workers you know: Send a text or drop off a note of encouragement. Deliver a meal to their home or run errands for them while you are out.
- Contact your child's school to see how vulnerable families are being cared for (See food collections/distribution for one option). Your child's school might have other opportunities to bless families or teachers and staff.
- Contact your workplace to see how hourly workers are being cared for and opportunities to help others.
- Give blood: If you are healthy, now is a good time to give: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/find-drive>
- Food collection/distribution we are partnering with First Baptist Apex which is a distribution sight for Wake County Public Schools Program to feed families or Raleigh Dream Center which is also working with Wake County Public Schools and has various areas to serve at.
 - First Baptist Apex serving opportunity: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20f084caaa72fabfc1-volunteers1>
 - Raleigh Dream Center serving opportunity: <https://raleighdreamcenter.org/covid-19/>
- Connect with local partners that might need help. Many of our Life Groups already work closely with these organizations. Reach out and see if there's any need you might be able to help them meet. Our list of local ministry partners can be found at: <http://apexbaptist.org/local>

This are undoubtedly difficult times that are affecting many different people in various ways. Our heart is for our people to be the hands and feet of Jesus during this time. Our prayer is that this time will give each of us opportunities to minister to our neighbors in ways we never have before, to pray for our leadership, health care workers, our community, and church family at a deeper level than we ever had, and, most importantly, to draw closer to God as we all struggle to deal with our new realities this COVID-19 virus has presented.

Finally, if God has blessed you with an opportunity to serve or grow spiritually during this time, we would love to hear from you. We truly believe this period in time will present itself with amazing opportunities for us to simply be the church to those around us.