

# Cross of Grace Church

## Virus Season Plan

Psalm 112:6–8

*[6] For the righteous will never be moved;  
he will be remembered forever.*

*[7] He is not afraid of bad news;  
his heart is firm, trusting in the LORD.*

*[8] His heart is steady; he will not be afraid, (ESV)*

### Encouragement

- We are not in control, but God is in control
- God works all things (even this) for the good of those who love him and are called according to his purposes (Rom 8:28)
- It is possible to have a steadfast and steady heart in the midst of bad news (Psalm 112)
- These times are times of opportunity for outreach and care and service

### Immediate Steps

*Responding to the situation as it exists today with relatively small current threat to our city but possible worsening across the region*

- **Communication** -- Seek to make sure we have clear lines of communication with everyone who calls our church home
- **Contact Information** -- Encourage people who are attenders and not in a CG to sign up for a CG or a "Friends of CoG" group so we can follow up and communicate with them and have all their basic info
- **Sanitation/Cleaning** -- Work on ensuring high cleaning standards.
  - Implement stricter cleaning standards for the church building and kids ministry
  - Change break time food. Eliminate home prepared foods and move to packaged or safe snack. Served coffee no self-serve.
- **Care/Visitation** -- Create a pastoral list of all elderly or sick who would be unable to attend if situation worsens. Make sure we have contact information for them.
- **Outreach** -- Create list of any vulnerable in our church neighborhood and try to get contact information to care for and check on them. Encourage members to be a hopeful compassionate presence in their neighborhoods, workplaces, etc.

### Intermediate Steps

*If social distancing protocols are implemented to care for the elderly and sick*

- **Communication** -- Be proactive in communication in this stage
  - Email the church with our plans as there are updates
  - Send a weekly email of encouragement related specifically to this issue
- **Church Gatherings**

- Elderly/sick -- Monitor public communications and encourage senior saints or those ill to remain at home
- Communion -- Move to self-contained communion
- **Care/Visitation**
  - Elderly/sick -- Begin following up weekly with those who cannot leave the house. Visit if/when appropriate by pastors.
  - Finances -- Monitor whether there are any families who lose work and are cast into financial difficulty
- **Community Groups**
  - If any elderly/sick are in the group the group should be encouraged to care for them
- **Outreach**
  - Implement church care list in church neighborhood? Then follow up with those folks periodically?

### **Severe Case Possible Future Steps**

*If live transmission is happening in the El Paso area leading to public gathering shutdowns*

- **Communication** -- Be proactive in communication with our members and attendees on a weekly basis
- **Church Gatherings** -- Stop public gatherings only if/when directly called for by local authorities and CDC. In that case bring as many elements of church gatherings to homes as possible.
  - Message -- Recorded message provided online
  - Worship -- Provide a weekly liturgy of songs and readings online for families and small groups
  - Kids Ministry -- Provide kids ministry lessons and instruction online to equip parents and families
- **Community Groups** -- If only large gatherings are discouraged then we would encourage CGs to get together on Sunday mornings and worship through the provided liturgy above. (But may discourage this depending on local situation.)
  - Encourage CGs to follow up with one another during the week and check on one another. Perhaps designate 1-2 other people in the group to keep in contact with.
- **Care/Visitation** -- Most visitation would be dependent on guidelines but weekly follow up with at risk members. Continue to monitor whether there are any families who lose work and are cast into financial difficulty
- **Devotionals** -- We will make it our aim to post something encouraging each day via social media and/or blog.
- **Outreach** -- Continue to seek opportunities to care for the vulnerable or those in need in the church neighborhood. Encourage members to care for others as they have opportunity.