



Summary

God is working in a thousand different ways. This is the greater story. This is the story we need to be watching, sharing and celebrating.



Small Group Commitment #6
Celebrate Growth



Two Minute Read



Written by
Eric Carlson

The pandemic isn't the whole story. *The virus is spreading. Schools and businesses are closing. Hospital beds are filling. People are dying. Systems are failing. The economy is collapsing. A bailout is coming. More days of social distancing.* It's tempting to be consumed by these headlines and let these words overwhelm us. But this is not the whole story.

The greater story is how God is working in the midst of the pandemic.

Two weeks ago, we decided to cancel small groups for two weeks. While this could have been an easy out and a night off small group, more and more groups have been gathering together virtually and meeting on their own. What's most surprising is that many groups are experiencing better attendance online than the previous months. Why? *Because people want to be together.*

It's a beautiful and glorious thing when people consider the interests of others and step into the lives of one another. Recently, I've seen groups reaching out and caring for one another, encouraging one another, loving one another, serving one another, praying for one another and coming alongside one another in the truest sense of community. C.S. Lewis said, *"God works in all sorts of ways. But above all, God works through people."* This is happening!

The church tends to be her best when we are forced to innovate.

From Small Group Leaders dropping off ice cream at their group members' front door, to handwritten cards of encouragement, God is working. As small groups meet virtually on Zoom and pray for one another, God is working. As life slows down and families are able to share meals together, God is working. As we redeem this time, God is working. As families pile on the couch and worship together, we have been sent back to a very ancient way of doing church as households and God is working. While we never asked for COVID-19, we have asked for God to be working in our lives. None of us pretend to know what God is doing right now, but we can be certain that He is working.

We won't hear about the story of God@Work in the news, but it is true.

Today, we have an incredible opportunity to encourage the people around us to slow down and see God working. This is the time to take what we have learned from Abide, Fruit and Radiant God and put these truths into action. Rather than fear what's happening, let's be watching, sharing and celebrating the greater story of God@Work.



Theological Truth

Right now, God is working in a thousand different ways; yet, we don't see all of those ways. Sometimes God works in miraculous ways that are big, bold and undeniable to the world around us. These are easy to see. These grab our attention. But this is not the only way God works. Much of the time, God is working through more mundane and ordinary ways that are slow, silent, unseen and unexpected.



Ideas to Consider

Rather than becoming consumed with headlines that lead to worry, fear, doubt and anxiety, make your own headlines.

- **Count it.** Start making a list of all the ways you see God working right now.
- **Display it.** Hang your God@Work headlines in your home for everyone to see.
- **Share it.** Invite your family to join you and write their own headlines on this list.
- **Celebrate it.** Take time during the week to read and celebrate God@Work.



Share this with Others

If you found this helpful, share it with others in your small group.