



Resources to help you and your family draw closer to God and to one another in this uncertain time

Only five months ago nobody had heard of the Coronavirus. Now it's all anyone is talking about. No life remains untouched. Many of us have struggled to know how to adjust and respond to the complete societal upheaval that coronavirus has brought. Two weeks ago, at Church I spoke to someone who was really struggling in his faith in this time and I felt a little powerless to know how to practically help him. While we may feel restricted, as we are confined to our homes, God is still at work. In the same way that Paul, though chained for the gospel, remained confident that "the word of God is not bound" (2 Tim. 2:9), we are still able to share God's word and helpful articles as we pray for those around us.

So, I have developed a list of resources to help you navigate these uncertain times, to help parents and their children grow in their trust in God and grow closer together as families. I have also provided some general resources to help you keep up to date with the Coronavirus and to help parents with their home learning.

Section 1: Christian resources

The Christian resources I have put together come in 6 categories

1. Articles
2. Podcasts
3. Books for adults and older teens
4. Books for all teens
5. Discipleship resources
6. Practical tools for showing love to your community

1. Articles

- Firstly, the best site to go for, for articles of all kinds is “The TGCA ‘One-Stop-Shop’ COVID-19 Resource Page”
 - <https://au.thegospelcoalition.org/article/the-tgca-one-stop-shop-covid-19-resource-page/>
 - The COVID-19 Resource Page covers topics such as:
 - Online church guides (i.e. the technical aspects)
 - Taking church structures online
 - Creative evangelism
 - Family and devotional resources
 - Wellness
 - Showing love to the vulnerable
 - Thinking through the issues
- “5 ways to disciple your teen while in Quarantine” By Styler Thomas and Justin Wevers
 - <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/5-ways-to-disciple-your-teen-while-in-quarantine/>
 - In essence, it suggests
 1. Let them see you trusting God in the midst of fear.
 2. Bring back devotional time.
 3. Tell them why they don’t need to be afraid.
 4. Practice social-media distancing together.
 5. Enjoy a good gift together during this time of loss
- “7 tips when talking to kids about Coronavirus” by Sandy Galea
 - <https://au.thegospelcoalition.org/article/7-tips-when-talking-to-kids-about-coronavirus/>
 - The points expanded upon are:
 1. Understand that children respond in a variety of ways
 2. Know that silence is not the answer
 3. Encourage children to use their words
 4. Pray with children
 5. Encourage children to respond with love
 6. Be careful what children see and hear
 7. Remind children that God uses everything, even coronavirus, to achieve His plans
- “Don’t be anxious about anything! Is that all God’s got to say?” By Paul Grimmond
 - <https://au.thegospelcoalition.org/article/dont-anxious-anything-gods-got-say/>
 - Paul goes on to help us trust God in this time through the following points
 1. What Does The Bible Have To Say?
 2. The Bigger Picture: Anxiety In a Fallen World
 3. What About Christians Who Suffer from Anxiety?
 4. How The Gospel of Grace Helps Our Anxiety
 5. Realistic Expectations
- “Trusting God in suffering, sacrifice, disease and death: a lost art?” by Peter Adam
 - <https://au.thegospelcoalition.org/article/trusting-god-in-suffering-sacrifice-disease-and-death-a-lost-art/>

- Here Peter shared encouraging examples of perseverance in suffering from Church history including: Polycarp; George Whitfield, Henry Venn, John Fletcher, Adoniram Judson, Nellie and Topsy Saunders.
- “One insight that will help you thrive in the COVID-19 age” by Akos Balagh
 - <https://au.thegospelcoalition.org/article/one-insight-that-will-help-you-thrive-in-the-covid-19-age/>
 - Here Akos helps us see that its our beliefs about adversity, more than the sifficulties themselves, that determine how we feel and act in this time.
- “Of earthquakes and pandemics: Lessons from a decade of disruption and trauma” by Geoff Robson
 - https://geoffrobson.com/2020/04/08/of-earthquakes-and-pandemics-lessons-from-a-decade-of-disruption-and-trauma/?fbclid=IwAR2723mmXGVruPm_cIIJAJzlrdsipeKfPISGmaSUwqPmQILppCEXmyEYc
 - Geoff Robson, has come up with 8 really helpful lessons for us, flowing out of his the hardships and trauma he has faced in Christchurch, NZ over the last 10 years. These lessons are are:
 - Go easy on yourself (and on others)
 - Get ready to see new aspects of God’s goodness
 - Do not miss that first time back at church
 - Treat God’s ordinary means of grace with extra thankfulness—and extra urgency
 - Don’t be deceived: God is in this, even though we don’t know how
 - The worst may be a long way off, but not in the way you think
 - A return to ‘normal’ should not be the Christian’s goal
 - The best is definitely yet to come
 - “Christians and Pandemics through the Ages” by Matthew Payne
 - https://www.australianchurchrecord.net/christians-and-pandemics-through-the-ages-260-1347-1665-2020/?fbclid=IwAR2723mmXGVruPm_cIIJAJzlrdsipeKfPISGmaSUwqPmQILppCEXmyEYc
 - Matthew Payne provides helpful examples from Christians throughout the ages on give us perspective and encouragement in light of this pandemic
 - “Practice hospitality. Especially during a pandemic” by Rosaria Butterfield
 - <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/practice-hospitality-especially-pandemic/>
 - In this article Rosaria explains the importance of hospitality in this time to spur us on to think creatively about how we can continue to practice the “love of strangers” to those around us and in our church communities.

2. Podcasts

- “How to talk to Children about the Coronavirus” by John Piper
 - <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/how-to-talk-to-children-about-the-coronavirus>
 - In this podcast John Piper helps youth trust God and gives youth courage with the opportunities they have for the gospel in this time.
- “How do I fight my Coronavirus Fears?” By John Piper
 - <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/how-do-i-fight-my-coronavirus-fears>
 - In this talk John Piper discusses the unshakable peace we can have when we stand upon the sure foundation of our sovereign God.
- “How COVID-19 changes evangelism” with Phillip Jensen at the Pastors Heart
 - <https://phillipjensen.com/resources/how-covid-changes-evangelism/>
 - In this episode, Phillip Jensen dissects the weaknesses of the individualistic and materialistic foundations of our culture has built itself upon. He also discusses the advantages we have for evangelism in a society that has sobered to the reality of death.
- “Protestants and Plagues” by Mark Earney at Moore Theological College
 - <https://moore.edu.au/resources/protestants-and-plagues/>

- This lecture gives us helpful insights at how the Reformers responded to the plagues, and the lessons we can learn from them.
- “How should Christians respond to the Coronavirus” By Mike Taylor
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50bgwMdb9jE>
 - <https://open.spotify.com/episode/6Vwt9MCW09E7kQDq4zvQYI?si=n11krmJrR6aRZMFhfKlc6A>
 - Here is as talk I gave to our youth group on the topic of the Coronavirus to help comfort them with God’s good purposes in this time and equip them for the opportunities it provides
- A short online Q and A by RZIM ministries on the question “If God, Why the Coronavirus”
 - <https://fervr.net/videos/how-do-i-pray-when-things-are-so-difficult>
 - Here is a very short video that encourages us to still pray in a time of crisis

3. Books for adults and older teens

- “Corona virus and Christ” by John Piper
 - John Piper invites readers to stand on the solid Rock, who is Jesus Christ, in whom our souls can be sustained by the sovereign God.
 - Free book at desiring God
 - <https://document.desiringgod.org/coronavirus-and-christ-en.pdf?ts=1586278809>
 - \$12.99 at Reformers
- “Where is God in a Coronavirus World” by John Lennox
 - Oxford mathematics professor John Lennox examines the coronavirus in light of various belief systems and shows how the Christian worldview not only helps us to make sense of it, but also offers us a sure and certain hope to cling to.
 - \$7:20 at Reformers bookshop
- “Walking with God through pain and suffering” By Tim Keller
 - Tim Keller helps us understand how to deal with pain and suffering in both our own lives and in the world around us with sensitivity to the contemporary culture and pastoral wisdom.
 - \$19.99 at Reformers
- “Suffering and the Sovereignty of God” By John Piper and Justin Taylor
 - This book tackles some of the most important issues to answer the greatest needs we might face amidst suffering.
 - Free book at desiring God
 - <https://document.desiringgod.org/suffering-and-the-sovereignty-of-god-en.pdf?ts=1439242069>
 - \$22.99 at Reformers
- “5 things to pray in a global crisis” By Rachel Jones,
 - This book gives passages and suggested prayers to help us pray in line with God’s priorities in this time.
 - \$5.99 at Reformers bookshop
- “Together through the storm” by Sally Sims
 - A short guide for practically caring for Christians in the harder times
 - \$18.95 from Matthias
- “Suffering well” by Paul Grimmond
 - Here Paul helps answer the question “why do we suffer” in a very accessible way that could even help us as we chat to our friends about suffering in this time.
 - \$16.95 at Reformers

4. Books for all teens

- “Suffering and Evil” in the Little Black Books series by Youth Minister Scott Petty

- In this short book, Scott Petty guides youth through the Old Testament story of Job dealing with some of the most common questions people have about suffering and evil.
- 56 pages
- \$7.99 at Matthias Media
- “Caring for one another: 8 ways to cultivate meaningful relationships” by Edward T Welch
 - The goal of this book is to help people build meaningful relationships that shine the spotlight on Christ.
 - 71 pages
 - Each chapter is about 8 pages
 - \$11.99 at Reformers
- “A students’ guide to technology” By John Perritt
 - This short books gives helpful ideas on how youth can use technology to glorify God
 - \$6.99 at Reformers

5. Discipleship and evangelism resources

Whilst I don’t have regular contact with a number of non-Christian’s that I was playing sport with before COVID-19, I have found increased opportunities to invite my family to Church online, to get to know, show practical love to and share the gospel with my neighbours, and to do some evangelism and discipleship online. Here are some tools you might find helpful as you pray for God to open doors for the gospel (Colossians 4:3).

- Uncover the gospels
 - Uncover.org.uk
 - Provides guides context, guided questions and videos to make reading the gospels online really easy!
- Two ways to live
 - <http://twowaystolive.com/2wtlonline.html>
 - Easy to use evangelistic tool
- Moore Theological College students have developed evangelistic resources which you can find [here](#).
- “Reading the Bible together while apart: WhatsApp and the Swedish Method” by Peter Blowes
 - <https://gotherefor.com/offer.php?intid=29664&changestore=true>
 - Here Peter Blowes suggests ways in which WhatsApp can be used to run through the Swedish Method in various contexts.

6. Practical tool for showing love to your community

- Free printable resource for offering practical support to your neighbours
 - https://www.virtualchurchassist.com/viralkindness?fbclid=IwAR2hV1KKQHqYKJI5Wr5ZTuX4C_WuJT_B4OYzFIFloZ_WpyK6zKMbAieT4o4I

Section 2: General resources

The general resources I have put together come in 3 categories

1. Free online games you can play as a family
2. Helpful Apps and websites to navigate COVID-19
3. Resources for home learning

1. Free online games you can play as a family

- Pictionary
 - Skribbl.io
- Catan
 - Colonist.io
- Psych
 - A free app where players make up fake answers to real trivia questions
 - <https://apps.apple.com/au/app/psych-outwit-your-friends/id1005765746>
- Netflix Party with your friends online. Netflix Party synchronizes video playback and adds group chat to your favorite Netflix shows.
 - <https://www.netflixparty.com/>
- Selah is like Netflix party but for YouTube
 - <https://selah.cloud/>
- Secret Hitler
 - <https://secrethitler.io/>
- Kahoot!
 - Kahoot! Has a lot of prewritten quizzes that can be a lot of fun
- Fervr has put together eight games you can play with youth groups [here](#).
- You can find an expanded list of online games [here](#).

2. Helpful apps and websites to get the latest on Covid 19 restrictions

- Download the [Service NSW app](#) to get COVID-19 mobile alerts about the latest restrictions as they're announced.
- Download the [NSW School Updates app](#) to be notified on operations at your school.
- The [NSW Government's website](#) is the best source of information for residents on COVID-19. It includes information on latest statistics, social distancing guidelines and how to protect yourself.
- Stay up to date with official information and advice about the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation through the [Coronavirus Australia App](#). You can check your symptoms and get notified when urgent information and updates are published. You can also download the [COVIDSafe app](#) helps people to know who has been exposed to the Coronavirus.

3. Resources for home learning

- Follow the [NSW Department of Education Facebook page](#) for updates and tips on home learning.
- Be Connected Learning Portal - Be Connected is an Australia wide initiative empowering all Australians to thrive in a digital world. Providing online learning resources as well as a Network of community partners - the Be Connected Network - who offer support so you can develop your digital skills and confidence. The [Be Connected Learning Portal](#) is free to use and contains a featured blog post on '[Coronavirus: how to get advice, stay connected and shop online](#)' with practical advice and tips.
- To help parents interact constructively with their children during this time of confinement, the World Health Organization has developed six one-page tips for parents cover planning one-on-one time, staying positive, creating a daily routine, avoiding bad behaviour, managing stress, and talking about COVID-19. You can find them [here](#).
- Kahoot! Has a lot of prewritten quizzes on almost every topic that can be a lot of fun.