

## PRACTIAL GUIDE TO CREATIVELY EMBRACING THE NEW THING GOD’S DOING!

This Practical Guide is simply designed to assist Churches and Christians who may be confused or unclear about how they can best make sense of the season we find ourselves in with this national crisis. This is not exhaustive. We are merely presenting some CREATIVE WAYS to serve the Lord in spite of the new challenges we face in 2020!

### **WAYS TO SERVE GOD WITH NEW METHODS:**

Good news, Believer! You CAN still use your gifts and talents to serve God – even though the WAYS of using them might be new! ( See Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12 and 1 Corinthians 14.):

#### Pastors, Teachers, Evangelists and the like:

- Online video and audio platforms, such as
  - Facebook
  - YouTube
  - Internet Radio
  - Twitch
  - Church or ministry websites
- Livestreaming or Videoconferencing for:
  - Church Services
  - Praise & Worship
  - Teachings and Bible studies
  - Preaching and Inspirational messages
- Radio broadcasts
- Written formats, such as:
  - Website articles
  - Blogs
  - Social media postings
  - Books and Ebooks
- “Drive-In” church or teachings at a central location

#### Singers, Musicians, Songwriters and such:

- Balcony or Backyard Worship sessions
  - Engaging your neighbors in safe ways they can join in and participate
- Drive-In “Concerts” at a central location where people can stay in their cars but still engage in worship

- Neighborhood “Block” Party outside with everyone remaining at a safe distance and not “gathering” closely together
- Consider nursing home “outdoor block party” concerts where residents can enjoy from their rooms (with permission from the nursing home)
- Online video and audio platforms, such as
  - Facebook
  - YouTube
  - Internet Radio
  - Twitch
  - Church or ministry websites
- Livestreaming or Videoconferencing for:
  - Church Services
  - Praise & Worship
  - Teachings and Bible studies
  - Preaching and Inspirational messages
- Radio broadcasts
- Written formats, such as:
  - Website articles
  - Blogs and Vlogs
  - Social media postings
  - Books and Ebooks

Those who Serve in Practical Ways, such as Gifts of Helps, Service, Encouragement, Exhortation or Mercy:

- Adopt-A-Senior (or Two)
  - Remaining at a safe distance from them, you can order or pickup their shopping online for groceries or medicines
  - Taking their pets for grooming or vet visits
  - Seeing to their outdoor needs (lawn care, auto service, etc.)
  - Hauling off trash or debris as needed
  - Doing dry-cleaning runs or ironing
- Become a Church “Runner”
  - Assist your pastoral staff with supply runs for church members or others as needed
- Deliver Bibles to neighborhoods and homes
- Deliver Church Library products with members being able to check out videos, books, etc.
- Cook meals and deliver home-cooked meals to neighbors or senior citizens nearby
- Bake cakes and pies to share with neighbors or seniors
- Do mail or bank runs for church members or close friends or seniors

- Adopt-a-Medical Professional
  - Communicate with them about what they need or how you might serve them
  - Send them encouragement regularly – cards, texts, etc.

Creative People (Artists, Craftspeople, Woodworkers, etc.):

- Make special gifts, cards, plaques, or the like and deliver or send to shut-ins, seniors, or church members giving them encouragement and joy
  - Some ideas:
    - Scripture paintings, plaques, etc.
    - Crocheted blankets, potholders, throws, etc.
    - Handmade wooden cutting boards, plaques, etc.
    - Handcrafted greeting cards and special notes of encouragement
- Pen Pal Partner ministry
  - Church members or neighbors adopt each other
  - Daily or regular writing of letters and sharing with one another through mail or other means
  - Texting and emails can also be included
- Begin or participate in a “Card Ministry” where you are sending personal messages in cards or handwritten/typed letters to shut-ins and other church members, family or friends
- Send cards and gospel messages to neighbors, homeless, and others who might not know Jesus or be a part of your church
- Mobile church or ministry-wide prayer and intercession teams
  - Phone calls or texted prayer requests prayed over daily
  - Virtual prayer groups through Zoom, Skype, Google Hangouts, etc.
- Make or repair outdoor trinkets or necessities for seniors or shut-ins, such as decks, fire pits, garden trinkets, etc.
- Graphic Artists can assist by helping other ministers develop online and virtual ministries, building websites, providing social media guidance and assistance, etc.

Children’s and Youth Projects:

- Adopt some of the above ideas for children and youth ministries as well, such as “Drive-In” block parties
- Perhaps even returning to old ways of teaching children, such as with flannelgraphs, puppets, and the like.
- Online or “Block Party” puppet shows, etc.

Fellowship together through Virtual Dinner Parties:

- Invite a friend or two to share your dinner hour through telephone, video conferencing, video chat, Facetime, etc.
  - Share your dinner table meals and conversations by phone or video.
  - Enjoy Christian fellowship and discussions, even if not physically in person.

ALL Christians can and should (not just now but always):

- Develop an intimate relationship with Jesus
- Read God’s Word, study, memorize and meditate on it
- Spend special times of intimate prayer and worship
- Connect with other Christians and family/friends through phone, texts, email, and social media
- Enjoy godly “down-time” or leisure pursuits
  - God and faith-based movies, TV, radio, etc.
  - Enjoy praise and worship music
  - Enjoy Christian teaching from trusted and godly Christian ministries (whether television, online, etc.)
- Pray and intercede for:
  - Lost to be saved
  - Prodigals to return home to the Father’s house
  - Church to repent, return to the Lord, and respond to His call
  - Israel, America, and the world
  - God’s will to be done in these days and through these challenges
  - Your own personal needs, family, and church

These are designed to provide some creative ideas to help ALL Christians be mobilized to SERVE the Lord, even in this time of crisis! God can use YOU if you let Him!

Lastly, REMEMBER – Jesus and the Apostles spoke of REWARDS for our Service to Him – even down to being rewarded for “**a cup of water**” to one person who needs it! Let God use YOU during this time and know that He takes notice – and WILL REWARD YOU too!