

WAYS TO GIVE DURING SOCIAL DISTANCING

In a time of crisis, generosity may not be the first thing on our mind. Fear can make us grip more tightly to the things we do have. But as stewards, we know that everything belongs to God, therefore we have nothing to lose! There are many ways we can be generous in an uncertain time. Listed below are a few examples of how you can love your neighbor when everything else seems uncertain:

TIME

- 1. Commit to calling and checking on someone every day.** Be sure to include people who may be lonely or afraid, but also reach out to people who seem to be doing great; if possible, set up video chats to better simulate in-person contact.
- 2. If you have to run to the store:**
 - Purchase extra supplies to give away to people you know or to donate to a food pantry or shelter.
 - Offer to pick up items (prescriptions, groceries, etc.) for neighbors or home bound people who are seriously at risk.

Talk to your church secretary, deacons, or another coordinator and let them know you're available to help people who are struggling. Then as people contact your church to ask for help, they can match them with you.
- 3. Start a virtual* small group.**
 - There are many different types and purposes of small groups, but as people are more and more isolated it could become increasingly important to be intentional about getting together. You may already have a small group, but think about the purpose of your current group and what needs for community still exist. Is God asking you to start a prayer group to meet and pray about all that's going on, or maybe it's a Bible Study to dig into scripture on relevant topics like fear or hope? Maybe it is a listening group that gives people the opportunity to process all that's going on with a leader who can point back to God's promises, or a group that meets practical needs. For example, a Crown study could help people dig into scripture and focus on God's promises while also offering practical guidance on wisely managing money during this difficult season.
- 4. Host a virtual* dinner party with friends.** Have everyone who can, order carry-out or delivery from the same local restaurant. You're supporting a local business while also helping lift your friends' spirits.
- 5. Send cards to the homebound.** Have your children draw pictures in them.
- 6. Set up regular Skype/Facetime meetings with your family members and long-distance friends to stay in touch and encourage each other.**

*For virtual gatherings, check out free virtual meeting software such as [Zoom](https://zoom.us), and [Skype](https://skype.com).

TALENT

1. **Consider ways you can spread love, joy, peace and hope during this season of fear and uncertainty for so many.**
 - Email, post or share [daily devotions](#) or encouraging scripture. Consider writing your own to share with friends and family.
 - Put together “craft packets”, “outdoor” kits (bubbles, sidewalk chalk, etc.), or hands-on devotionals/lessons for families whose kids are home from school for an extended period of time. It will help the children feel less lonely while they are cooped up and gives the parents something new to do.
 - Organize friends to record videos of themselves reading children’s books. Then share the videos with other parents, so their kids can have daily “story time” with stories told by different people.

TREASURE

1. **Continue tithing to the best of your ability. Give to you church online or mail them a check**
2. **If you are blessed to have surplus in this season, consider blessing a small business owner, someone who has been laid off, or another struggling person you know. If you are not in direct contact, give to a ministry that has proven to be wise in stewarding resources to impact as many as possible.**
3. **Give money or goods to a local food pantry that is still operating.**
4. **Send delivery service gift cards to loved ones electronically, especially those celebrating birthdays and/or who had to cancel weddings/graduations/other major events during this social distancing time! (Check out [DoorDash](#), [GrubHub](#), [Postmates](#), [BiteSquad](#), etc.)**
5. **[Make an appointment](#) to donate blood at a local blood bank.**