

Wednesday, March 18, 2:30pm

Dear Cypress Family,

Last night the elders unanimously decided to temporarily postpone all Cypress ministries (on-campus and off-campus) until April 8. This includes all small groups. We also won't be gathering at the church for prayer, but that shouldn't stop us from praying. Instead, the staff and I are planning other ministries and opportunities for the next three weeks, including an online Sunday experience.

When we gathered last Sunday morning, recommendations were for gatherings of 250 or less, and we were in compliance. Sunday afternoon, though, that changed to 50. Monday it went to 10. Then yesterday, 45 minutes before the elders meeting, we all received Monterey County's "shelter in place" order. Things have been changing quickly, and continue to change.

The elders and I are taking this virus seriously. We love you and those in our community. We want to comply with government recommendations and orders. Most importantly, we have a sense that God is going to use the coronavirus circumstances to deepen our relationship with him, to grow the church in Monterey County, and to save people's souls. Let's pray that people will be open to hearing about Jesus, for boldness to speak about him, and that people would be saved!

This Sunday we will livestream an alternate Sunday experience. This won't be merely filming a regular worship service in an empty sanctuary. We're also not going to keep going through the book of Acts over the next two Sundays either. (Ideally, I want to keep going through Acts when we can be together.) Instead, we're going to livestream a more engaging-for-online worship experience. It's going to be similar to our regular Sunday morning experience, but different. Carrie is going to sing. Garreth will giving us important announcements and updates, and I'm going to do a two-week *Kingdom Lab* on "The Gospel".

We did the *Kingdom Lab: The Gospel* in February and received amazingly positive feedback. Those who attended, loved it and wanted to do it again. Those who weren't able to attend, started asking immediately when we planned to do it again so they could engage with the material too. So that's what we're going to do! If ever there was a time to be crystal clear on the gospel, it's now.

The Kingdom Lab will streamed Sunday morning at 10am. You can log in earlier so you don't miss anything. You can access the livestream on our Cypress Church Facebook page or by going to the church website, www.cypresschurch.org, and clicking on the Kingdom Lab banner. As part of the church-wide Weekly email that will be sent out on Thursday, we will be attaching updated notes for the Kingdom Lab and kid's coloring and activity pages to print out at home for Sunday morning.

We've got a number of other things in the works, but for now I need to send out this update.

Tune in this Sunday at 10am to hear about other ministry opportunities that are opening up for you to engage in during our "shelter in place".

Several Sundays ago, when we studied Acts 4, we talked about how *every danger presents us with an opportunity*. I just want to remind you that we've been praying for revival at Cypress for over a year now, our vision for 2020 is to experience the Holy Spirit more, and today is Day 15 of our 40 Days of Prayer. God is doing something in the midst of all this, and it's big. It's big and it's good. May we have eyes to see it and ears to hear his voice. It could be that this crisis is the catalyst for ushering in revival at Cypress, among our partner churches, and throughout Monterey County!

Grace and peace,
Ben

P.S. Our office staff is available for any questions. Please call 831-484-2141.