

# How can I talk about the Coronavirus in a way that gives hope in the midst of fearful conversations?

How to be a source of encouragement and an example of wisdom and hope for our **church**, our **community**, and **ourselves**.

## For our church

- We are continuing to meet and connect with each other online. Love, not fear, is informing our decisions.
  - Some of our neighbors are more vulnerable and we want to be especially careful
  - We love our community and we want what's best for them
  - This is not fearful. This is responsible.

## For our world

- Acknowledge the reality of the situation without fearing it
  - We are facing a situation that none of us have ever experienced at this point. There are real dangers involved with COVID-19
  - Point to hope- This is a season, and one that we can get through together. Be expectant for what God is going to do in this season, and look for ways to be grateful. Celebrate those who are going out of their way to care for, and share with, those around them.
- Check your information sources
  - There are sources of information all over the internet surrounding COVID-19. These are not all based in fact. As followers of Christ, we want to make sure that the information that we pass to others is grounded in truth.
  - The University of Rochester Medical Center has up-to-date, accurate information on COVID-19 in our area. <https://www.urmc.rochester.edu/coronavirus.aspx>
  - CDC information on COVID-19 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- Political statements and statements that focus on political parties serve only to divide us in this time
  - We are grateful for those who are working hard to lead in this season, and we are praying for God to grant them wisdom for the many decisions that they must make
- Why should we give to others instead of storing up for ourselves?

- We don't give and serve because we have too much resources or time. We give and serve because we believe it is a better way to live and it makes a real difference in the lives of those around us.

### **For ourselves**

- This is a season
  - There have been countless challenging seasons throughout history. The single common denominator is the faithfulness of God. We trust Him to lead, guide, and provide through this.
  - All around us are examples of God's faithfulness, and peoples' generosity. Share these stories with people around you- they carry hope.
- Practice sacrifice, not selfishness
  - The sacrifice that you demonstrate for your community will inspire others to sacrifice for their community
- Look for opportunities in the midst of obstacles
  - Research ways to help your community. In your conversations, look actively for ways to help others in areas where you can meet a need.

### **Questions to ask yourself:**

- How can I help the people around me feel cared for, valued, loved?
- How can I discern what God is doing, and partner with Him?
- How am I demonstrating generosity with the resources and the time that are available to me?
- How is my language, and my behavior, pointing people to the hope that Jesus offers during this time?