



# The New Normal: Pastoring Your People Through A National Crisis

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## **5 KINGDOM PRINCIPLES**

1. As shepherd-leaders, our job is always to provide an accurate view of reality. Help your people embrace the new normal rather than fighting, fearing, or being frustrated by it.
2. As social distancing is implemented, shepherding and caregiving needs to ramp up. When the large gathering is shut down, the small group can ramp up. Telephone visits need to replace face-to-face visits.
3. Now is the time to ramp up prayer. People want prayer; even pagans want prayer.
4. Now, more than ever, we can shine as ministers of hope. While the kingdoms of this world are being shaken, those of us who serve a kingdom that cannot be shaken will stand out.
5. This is the beginning of the end. Everything that can be shaken will be shaken. The spirit of the antichrist will leverage the global pandemic to move toward globalism.

## **10 PRACTICAL GUIDELINES**

1. Lead with joy.
2. Love your people. Ramp up your caregiving. Diligently look for overlooked or marginalized people in your congregation.
3. Utilize technology. I've heard of Zoom before, but today, for the first time, we utilized this resource. Replace face-to-face meetings with video conferencing like Zoom, Skype, and FreeConferenceCall.com.
4. Replace corporate worship gatherings with virtual worship gatherings.
5. Preach the Gospel. People are obviously more conscious of their own mortality during this pandemic than at any time in our lifetime. Stir up the gift of evangelism.
6. Don't fear financial shortfall, but be proactive. The sooner you provide leadership to your people to practice online giving, the sooner your church will recover financially.
7. Leverage family self-quarantine times to encourage family prayer times. Most of us complain that we are too busy to sit the kids down for even 15 minutes to pray and read the Bible together. Well, guess what? We suddenly have more time than we know what to do with. Now is an ideal opportunity to put useful family prayer and kid-friendly Bible tools in the hands of our parents.
8. Rest. Slow down. Accept the social distancing as a gift from God. Encourage your people to do the same.
9. Keep your hearts in the love of God. Nothing is more important to you and your people than to continually receive the love of God. The worse this virus gets, the more important it is for us to continually receive the Father's love.
10. Give your families, children, and students resources to use at home.

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