

MAKING THE MOST OF COVID-19



WHAT IF THE CORONAVIRUS IS ACTUALLY A GOOD THING?

WHAT IF ROMANS 8:28 IS ACTUALLY TRUE?

Obviously, COVID-19 has caused widespread suffering and anxiety. I would never want to minimize the tragic deaths and overwhelming difficulties that this virus has incurred on people around the globe.

However, we can expect God to bring good out of this because He has a habit of turning seemingly terrible situations into glorious blessings.

- » He turned the devastating effects of Adam's sin into a plan for worldwide redemption.
- » He turned Joseph's slavery and imprisonment into an opportunity to save the world.
- » He turned the Israelites' bondage into the greatest showcase of His awesome power.
- » He turned the children of slaves into the conquerors of kingdoms.
- » He turned an overlooked, belittled shepherd boy into Israel's greatest king.
- » He turned three Hebrews' execution by fire into an incredible Christophany.
- » He turned a rebellious prophet—puked onto a beach by a great fish—into the Old Testament's greatest revival preacher.
- » He turned the tragic captivity of His people into the dispersion of His Word throughout the world.
- » He turned an untimely Roman census into the fulfillment of a prophecy regarding His Son's birthplace.
- » He turned hungry crowds into feasting multitudes.
- » He turned a Roman cross into humanity's salvation.
- » He turned death into life.
- » He turned the debase Romans' interconnected empire into a highway for world evangelization.
- » He turned persecution into a catapult for the gospel.
- » He turned a suffering Lamb into a triumphant King.

- And there is no doubt in my mind that He wants to turn COVID-19 into a worldwide revival.

COVID-19 IS AN OPPORTUNITY TO...

GET CLOSER TO GOD

Let's break up **James 4:8-10** and see how these verses apply to our current situation:



“Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.”

IT'S TIME TO SELF-ISOLATE.

- If the coronavirus has given us extra time at home, why wouldn't we capitalize on the opportunity to spend more time alone with God?
- Rather than spending countless hours scrolling through depressing social media feeds or watching apocalyptic news outlets, let's get our faces in the Word of God



“Cleanse your hands, ye sinners.”

IT'S TIME TO WASH OUR HANDS.

- We're all very paranoid about keeping our hands washed right now. But how vigilant are we when it comes to our spiritual cleanliness? Are we thoroughly right with God? Or, are there unconfessed sins in our lives that need to be dealt with?



“Purify your hearts, ye double minded.”

IT'S TIME TO SELF-DIAGNOSE.

- Nearly everyone's way of life has been turned upside down, and most of us are experiencing withdrawal symptoms. But this is a great opportunity to ask ourselves, What am I really living for? Am I seeking first the kingdom of God, or am I caught up in trivial pursuits (Matthew 6:31-33)? Am I living to please myself or to please God?



“Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.”

IT'S TIME TO CALL THE DOCTOR.

- This situation is definitely a humbling experience for humanity. Many of us have hunkered down at home for fear of catching—or spreading—the virus, leaving much of society completely immobilized. For such an advanced civilization, it's almost embarrassing. But God is trying to get our attention—He is reminding us of how desperately we need Him.
- Paul says in Acts 17:25, *“He giveth to all life, and breath, and all things.”* Everything we have—including our health—is a gift from God that He can take away at any moment.
- Let's humble ourselves before God. Let's bow the knee and commit ourselves to prayer—let's admit to God how desperately we need Him and pray that unbelievers would do the same by turning to Christ.

Philippians 4:6 *“Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.”*

We have been gifted truck-loads of churning anxiety. We can just let these worries spin round and round in our minds like a cement mixer, or we can pour out our fears as concrete prayers, and watch God build something beautiful!

How will you respond to COVID-19? Will you “jump in” on this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for revival? God promises to draw nigh to us if we draw nigh to Him!

So, let's **self-isolate** by getting alone with our Creator. Let's **wash our spiritual hands** by confessing our sins and getting thoroughly right with God. Let's **self-diagnose** by asking ourselves, Am I living to please myself or to please the Lord? And let's **call the Doctor** by humbling ourselves before God and depending on Him in prayer.

A PRACTICAL AID TO DRAWING CLOSER TO GOD :

The YouVersion Bible/Prayer App

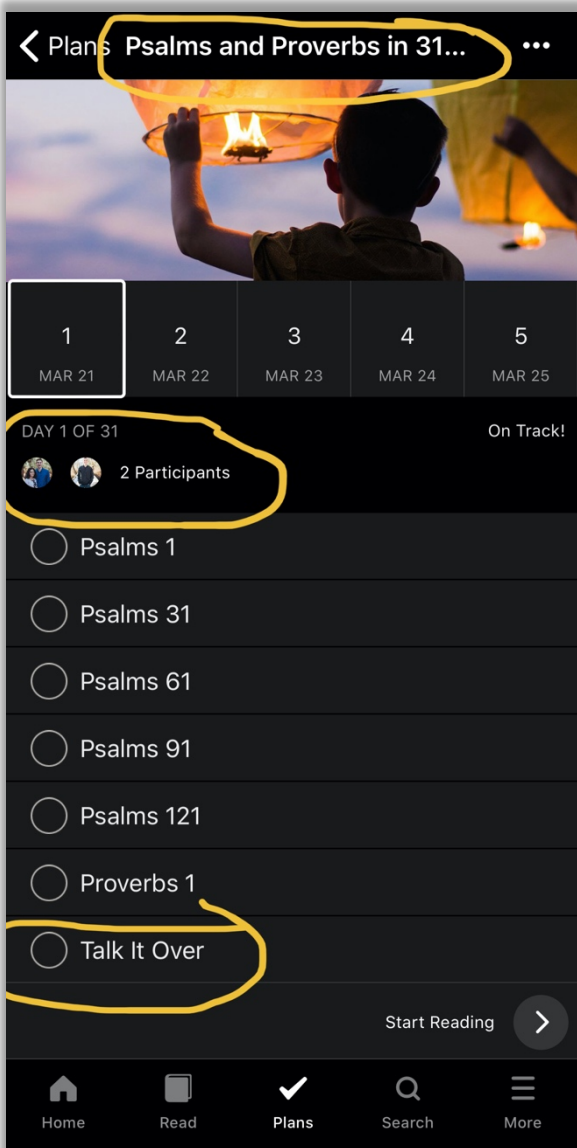
Available on the App Store & Google Play



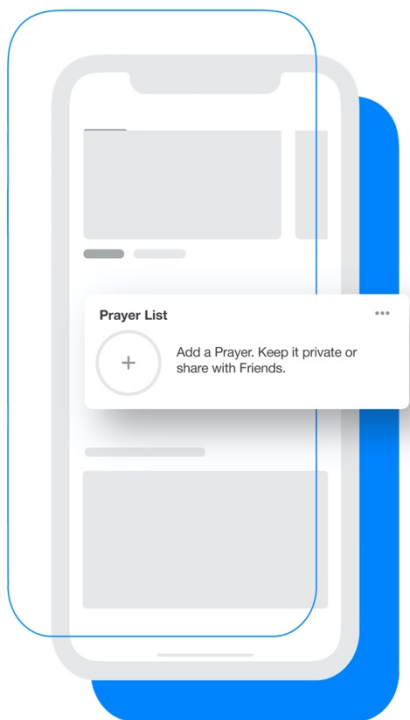
Invite friends to do
plans with you.

Share with others
how God is
speaking to you.

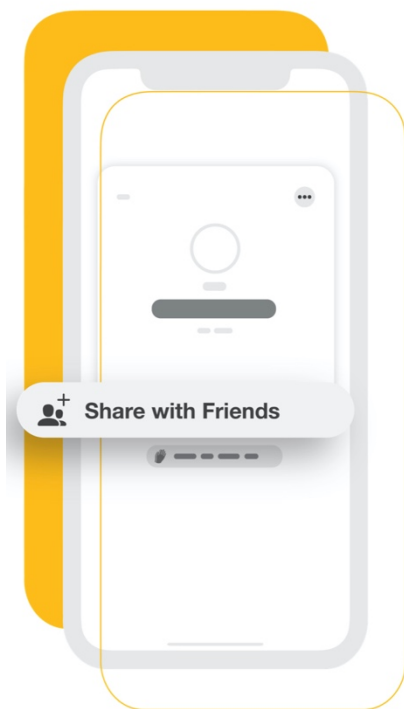
Enjoy a variety of Bible-reading plans,
like "Psalms and Proverbs in 31 Days."



CHECK OUT THE APP'S PRAYER FEATURE



Keep track of the things you're praying for, including Prayers that you create and Prayers that Friends have sent to you.



Invite Friends to pray for you. You can keep a Prayer confidential, where only the people you invite can see it, or you can create a Prayer Chain, where your Friends and Friends of Friends can share your Prayer.

CHECK OUT THESE RESOURCES FOR KIDS

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At-Home Discipleship Resources

As Christians, [we care about the COVID-19 virus](#). As disciplers, we also care about continuing to disciple those in our care. With several states and local school districts opting to close public and private schools for the coming weeks, parents will be looking for family discipleship resources. **Your church can help families with at-home resources by pointing them to three free resources from Kids4Truth Clubs, a division of RBP.**



FREE: 10 Lessons & Student Workbooks

Don't currently use Kids4Truth Clubs? Pass [this link](#) along to parents so they can teach their kids 10 key truths about God's Word—the Bible.

[DOWNLOAD UNIT 1 FOR FREE.](#)

If your church currently uses Kids4Truth Clubs, encourage families to focus on the doctrinal unit you're currently studying. Additional resources for each unit are available on [EquipU](#).

Daily Devos Podcast
New episode every day!

DAILY DEVOS



It's all about God! We want to help your family grow spiritually each day of the week by providing devotions that discuss the attributes of God. The devotions complement the Kids4Truth Clubs curriculum but can be used for standalone discipleship. Great for all ages, these devotions are written especially for families. So gather together and listen to devos about God! [LISTEN NOW.](#)



Truth in REAL LIFE



Truth in Real Life Moments

New episode every week!

Truth isn't an abstract idea. *Truth in Real Life* is a weekly podcast about real historical figures who stood for and defended truth. These people are powerful reminders for kids to stand for truth when they're tested. Just as God helped others, He can help today's kids stand for truth too. [LISTEN NOW.](#)

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