INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our first Roundtable sermon. Let’s be honest, the Coronavirus has introduced a number of firsts in practically every phase of our lives, which afford us opportunities to live out our faith in creative and effective ways.

Today, the GCCC Lead Team is going to address how we as a Church, can continue to Share Christ, Connect people and Serve others through

- Family Life
- Campus Life
- Creative Arts
- Finances (and)

Yours truly looking at “Responding to the Unknown.”

Now to our first speaker ________________.
THE BELIEVER’S RESPONSE
TO THE UNKNOWN

I. FOR EVERY POSITIVE THERE’S A
NEGATIVE, FOR EVERY ACTION THERE IS
A REACTION, FOR EVERY SWEET THERE
IS A SOUR.

A. I could be wrong, but I believe the
coronavirus is far more than a common cold
on steroids; it is a plague.

Here’s the definition of the word “plague:”
- Outbreak
- Epidemic
- Pestilence
- Disease
- Pandemic

B. With every “pandemic” comes fear. Why?
We fear the unknown. And, with COVID-19, there
are more unknowns than what is known.

Here are some of the “sours:”
1. People are dying at alarming rates
2. Many have lost their jobs, are living on reduced
   pay, or have no income
3. We have all, in some measure, been
   quarantined
4. The US Congress and Senate have used this epidemic as an opportunity to manipulate and even bribe to get their agenda passed—rather than come together as One Nation Under God.

**Here are some of the “sweets:”**

1. We are brought to the reality of how vulnerable we are before an all-powerful God. And that’s a good thing.

2. As Americans we can feel and boast of our dominance in nearly every phase of life. Times like these bring us to the stark reality that despite all of our might, we are not invincible, and are but a hand’s breadth before God. Our gods, those things that dominate our time in place of God, have been taken from us. And that’s a good thing.

*Psalm 33: 10-12*

The **Lord** brings the counsel of the nations to nothing;

He makes the plans of the peoples of no effect.  

11 The counsel of the **Lord** stands forever,  

The plans of His heart to all generations.  

12 Blessed *is* the nation whose God *is* the **Lord,**  

The people He has chosen as His own inheritance.
3. Our hectic lives have been slowed down, if not brought to a screeching halt. And that’s a good thing.

4. Most importantly, it gives the opportunity to fulfill the two great commandments in new and creative ways. And that’s a good thing.

E.g.:

1) Some well-known chefs who own fine-food restaurants that have been reduced to a skeleton crew are encouraging their workers to come to their restaurants and get food daily. Owners are working for employees.

2) As a church, we are developing ways to come into your homes daily. This past weekend we saw 5 times as many people *worship* with us as what is typical to a normal Sunday. And *Guaranteed Christian Growth* grew by 5,065% the first week. And that’s a good thing.

3) We are using social media for positive purposes. And that’s a good thing.

II. B-ENCOURAGED

I took the Bible challenge in January of 2019. I am presently in Psalms. This was my reading Wednesday morning:

*Psalm 34: 6-8*
I sought the LORD, and He heard me, 
And delivered me from all my fears.  
7 The angel of the LORD encamps all around those who fear Him, 
And delivers them.  
8 Oh, taste and see that the LORD is good; 
Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!  
... those who seek the LORD shall not lack any good thing.

Let us pray:  
“Father, give us strength to place our hope in You in ALL things. In Jesus’ name, Amen!”