

# ABIDING IN JESUS DURING CRISIS

a 6-part home church resource  
to be used during  
the Covid-19 pandemic

This six part Home Church Resource is structured after the Discovery Bible Study model and is designed to be used for families, small groups, or Home Churches meeting either in-person or over online platforms.

The content in this resource is inspired by the devotionals that 24-7 Prayer have made available during this global pandemic.

You can find these resources at [24-7prayer.com](https://24-7prayer.com):

Lectio365 (March 23rd - 28th, 2020)

Trusting Jesus In The Storm (Three day reflection on the  
YouVersion Bible App)

Family-friendly Coronavirus Prayer Guide (a guide for praying for the Coronavirus  
at home)



Compiled by Navah KC - a 24-7 Prayer Community

**NAVAH**

 **24-7 PRAYER**

# **PART 1: LOVE IN A TIME OF FEAR**

## **(1 JOHN 4:15-19)**

### **Eat Together (30 min):**

Practice this devotion if possible, or host a virtual meal for connection during social distancing.

### **Worship & Prayer (20 min):**

Read Psalm 27:1-5 as a centering passage to begin your time of worship together.

Choose 2-3 context appropriate songs to sing. Someone can lead you "live" either with an instrument or acapella, or you can pull up a few songs on an online platform like YouTube or Spotify and sing along.

To close, pray *The Coronavirus prayer by Pete Greig* together.

### **Kids (time varies):**

Each home church will do this differently depending on the number and age of the children participating. Remember to have fun and include your kids as much as possible. There is a resource that accompanies this one especially designed for kids, or see the 24-7 Prayer "Family-Friendly Coronavirus Prayer Guide" for more creative ways you can pray as a family.

### **Care (20 min):**

Invite each person to share a brief High/Low (gratitude and prayer need) or Good News Story. Consider having the next person who shares pray a short blessing over the previous person.

### **Discovery Bible Study (30 min): 1 John 4:15-19**

Read the passage, retell the passage, then discover using the following questions:

1. What do we learn about God (Father? Jesus? Holy Spirit?)
2. What do we learn about people?
3. Additional question - Where are we afraid, and how might we drive fear from another person's life today by the simple power of love? (taken from the Lectio 365)
4. What is something you can do to put this passage into practice this week?
  - Is there a sin to avoid? (repent of?)
  - Is there a promise to believe? (take hold of?)
  - Is there an example to follow?
  - Is there a command to obey?

*See the commentary below for more insight on the passage.*

### **Communion (10 min):**

Prepare the elements ahead of time.

Read a short passage (eg. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

Lead everyone in receiving the elements. Consider singing or reciting the doxology.

## **Suggested Closing Prayers (2 min):**

Pray The Lord's Prayer together (Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11:2-4)

Or this closing prayer from Lectio 365:

*Father, help me to live this day to the full, being true to You, in every way.*

*Jesus, help me to give myself away to others, being kind to everyone I meet.*

*Spirit, help me to love the lost, proclaiming Christ in all I do and say.*

*Amen.*

## **Commentary from the passage:**

### **DBS 1 John 4:15-19: Short Commentary (Pete Greig)**

Everywhere I look right now I encounter fear. The news is scary. There is fear in peoples' eyes. But the apostle John says that God's "perfect love drives out fear." The Greek word for driving out here is "ballei." It's the same word used of Jesus driving out the money-lenders from the temple and casting demons out of the oppressed. It's forceful. Love doesn't just soothe our fear. It isn't polite. There is a violence about the way it kicks terror out of our hearts and minds. It's important to face the facts, even when they are scary, but even more important to focus on the ultimate and enduring reality of God's love.

One of the primary longings of the human heart is for security; a place of safety, for our spirits, souls and bodies. In this text, the Apostle John brings a fresh revelation that confidence and stability come only in the recognition of Jesus, the beloved Son of God. To acknowledge Him is to welcome the Father's love, which is the purest place of refuge for our whole being. His love dispels completely any fears faced in this life. There is much uncertainty in these times, with many unsure of where to turn and what to trust. Yet God is able to keep us fully in perfect love, for He is perfect. In the midst of a global crisis, may we turn our attention and our affection to Jesus, allowing His love to settle the anxieties of our circumstance.

## **PART 2: CONNECTION IN A TIME OF ISOLATION (LUKE 8:42-48)**

### **Eat Together (30 min):**

Practice this devotion if possible, or host a virtual meal for connection during social distancing.

### **Worship & Prayer (20 min):**

Read Psalm 139:13-17 as a centering passage to begin your time of worship together. Choose 2-3 context appropriate songs to sing. Someone can lead you "live" either with an instrument or acapella, or you can pull up a few songs on an online platform like YouTube or Spotify and sing along.

To close, pray *The Coronavirus prayer by Pete Greig* together.

### **Kids (time varies):**

Each home church will do this differently depending on the number and age of the children participating. Remember to have fun and include your kids as much as possible. There is a resource that accompanies this one especially designed for kids, or see the 24-7 Prayer "Family-Friendly Coronavirus Prayer Guide" for more creative ways you can pray as a family.

### **Care (20 min):**

Invite each person to share a brief High/Low (gratitude and prayer need) or Good News Story. Consider having the next person who shares pray a short blessing over the previous person.

### **Discovery Bible Study (30 min): Luke 8:42-48**

Read the passage, retell the passage, then discover using the following questions:

1. What do we learn about God (Father? Jesus? Holy Spirit?)
2. What do we learn about people?
3. Additional question - Where are we afraid, and how might we drive fear from another person's life today by the simple power of love? (taken from the Lectio 365)
4. What is something you can do to put this passage into practice this week?
  - Is there a sin to avoid? (repent of?)
  - Is there a promise to believe? (take hold of?)
  - Is there an example to follow?
  - Is there a command to obey?

*See the commentary below for more insight on the passage.*

### **Communion (10 min):**

Prepare the elements ahead of time.

Read a short passage (eg. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

Lead everyone in receiving the elements. Consider singing or reciting the doxology.

## **Suggested Closing Prayers (2 min):**

Pray The Lord's Prayer together (Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11:2-4)

Or this closing prayer from Lectio 365:

*Father, help me to live this day to the full, being true to You, in every way.*

*Jesus, help me to give myself away to others, being kind to everyone I meet.*

*Spirit, help me to love the lost, proclaiming Christ in all I do and say.*

*Amen.*

## **Commentary from the passage:**

### **DBS Luke 8:42-48 Short Commentary (Pete Greig)**

In this time of isolation, people need connection more than ever. Thinking through the day ahead, I ask the Lord to put particular people on my heart to call. To give me opportunities to smile and wave to those I might pass in the street. To help me love and listen to those I meet - even if it's only online.

In Jesus' day, there were strict rules forbidding the touching of anyone or anything considered ritually unclean including lepers, corpses and even menstruating women (perhaps this kind of regulation of touch may seem a little less strange to us now, finding ourselves forbidden from hand-shaking and hugging, required to sanitize our hands after every encounter).

This poor woman was not just sick, she was untouchable. Years of chronic hemorrhaging had brought the added stigma of isolation and shame. No wonder she "came trembling and fell at Jesus' feet." Her touch was supposed to infect Jesus, but instead His touch healed her, and His words restored her dignity.

## **PART 3: PEACE IN A TIME OF STORMS (MARK 4:35-41)**

### **Eat Together (30 min):**

Practice this devotion if possible, or host a virtual meal for connection during social distancing.

### **Worship & Prayer (20 min):**

Read Psalm 63:3-8 as a centering passage to begin your time of worship together.

Choose 2-3 context appropriate songs to sing. Someone can lead you "live" either with an instrument or acapella, or you can pull up a few songs on an online platform like YouTube or Spotify and sing along.

To close, pray *The Coronavirus prayer by Pete Greig* together.

### **Kids (time varies):**

Each home church will do this differently depending on the number and age of the children participating. Remember to have fun and include your kids as much as possible. There is a resource that accompanies this one especially designed for kids, or see the 24-7 Prayer "Family-Friendly Coronavirus Prayer Guide" for more creative ways you can pray as a family.

### **Care (20 min):**

Invite each person to share a brief High/Low (gratitude and prayer need) or Good News Story. Consider having the next person who shares pray a short blessing over the previous person.

### **Discovery Bible Study (30 min): Mark 4:35-41**

Read the passage, retell the passage, then discover using the following questions:

1. What do we learn about God (Father? Jesus? Holy Spirit?)
2. What do we learn about people?
3. Additional question - Where are we afraid, and how might we drive fear from another person's life today by the simple power of love? (taken from the Lectio 365)
4. What is something you can do to put this passage into practice this week?
  - Is there a sin to avoid? (repent of?)
  - Is there a promise to believe? (take hold of?)
  - Is there an example to follow?
  - Is there a command to obey?

*See the commentary below for more insight on the passage.*

### **Communion (10 min):**

Prepare the elements ahead of time.

Read a short passage (eg. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

Lead everyone in receiving the elements. Consider singing or reciting the doxology.

## **Suggested Closing Prayers (2 min):**

Pray The Lord's Prayer together (Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11:2-4)

Or this closing prayer from Lectio 365:

*Father, help me to live this day to the full, being true to You, in every way.*

*Jesus, help me to give myself away to others, being kind to everyone I meet.*

*Spirit, help me to love the lost, proclaiming Christ in all I do and say.*

*Amen.*

## **Commentary from the passage:**

### **DBS Mark 4:35-41 Short Commentary (Pete Greig)**

As we sit in the storm of the Coronavirus pandemic, we are embarking on a journey that none of us have been on before. Yet in this place of uncertainty, there is so much hope we can draw on from the story of Jesus calming the storm.

The disciples have spent the day listening to Jesus' teaching, where He told a parable about a sower sowing seed – explaining that the seed represents the word of God. It's suggested that perhaps, Jesus is drawing from Isaiah 55 as He teaches. *"As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth."* - Isaiah 55:10-11

After a long day of teaching, Jesus asks His disciples to take Him to the other side of the lake. He says, "Let us go over to the other side." (v. 35) The sower sows the seed; the Son of God proclaims the word of God, and says, "Let us go over to the other side." I once heard an old preacher say that perhaps the reason Jesus seemed angry with the disciples after He had calmed the storm was because they had forgotten His words. The fear they felt in the storm meant they forgot to trust His word, and that His word was true. Jesus said, "Let us go over to the other side." As Jesus said, it was going to happen.

We currently find ourselves in a storm, and it's in the middle of this that we need to remember the word of God. When the waves come, we have the words of life that we can hide in our hearts to sustain and maintain us as we experience this Coronavirus storm.

## **PART 4: DEPTH IN A TIME OF DISTRACTION (MARK 6:30-32)**

### **Eat Together (30 min):**

Practice this devotion if possible, or host a virtual meal for connection during social distancing.

### **Worship & Prayer (20 min):**

Read Psalm 46:6,10-11 as a centering passage to begin your time of worship together. Choose 2-3 context appropriate songs to sing. Someone can lead you "live" either with an instrument or acapella, or you can pull up a few songs on an online platform like YouTube or Spotify and sing along.

To close, pray *The Coronavirus prayer by Pete Greig* together.

### **Kids (time varies):**

Each home church will do this differently depending on the number and age of the children participating. Remember to have fun and include your kids as much as possible. There is a resource that accompanies this one especially designed for kids, or see the 24-7 Prayer "Family-Friendly Coronavirus Prayer Guide" for more creative ways you can pray as a family.

### **Care (20 min):**

Invite each person to share a brief High/Low (gratitude and prayer need) or Good News Story. Consider having the next person who shares pray a short blessing over the previous person.

### **Discovery Bible Study (30 min): Mark 6:30-32**

Read the passage, retell the passage, then discover using the following questions:

1. What do we learn about God (Father? Jesus? Holy Spirit?)
2. What do we learn about people?
3. Additional question - Where are we afraid, and how might we drive fear from another person's life today by the simple power of love? (taken from the Lectio 365)
4. What is something you can do to put this passage into practice this week?
  - Is there a sin to avoid? (repent of?)
  - Is there a promise to believe? (take hold of?)
  - Is there an example to follow?
  - Is there a command to obey?

*See the commentary below for more insight on the passage.*

### **Communion (10 min):**

Prepare the elements ahead of time.

Read a short passage (eg. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

Lead everyone in receiving the elements. Consider singing or reciting the doxology.

## **Suggested Closing Prayers (2 min):**

Pray The Lord's Prayer together (Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11:2-4)

Or this closing prayer from Lectio 365:

*Father, help me to live this day to the full, being true to You, in every way.*

*Jesus, help me to give myself away to others, being kind to everyone I meet.*

*Spirit, help me to love the lost, proclaiming Christ in all I do and say.*

*Amen.*

## **Commentary from the passage:**

### **DBS Mark 6:30-32 Short Commentary (Pete Greig)**

Christ's invitation to solitude comes at a time when He is experiencing every kind of stress. Prior to this encounter He's been rejected in his hometown, then He's heard the devastating news that His cousin John has been beheaded, and now He is so busy that He hasn't even had time to eat.

It's easy to think that I'll finally get my prayer life sorted when all my problems go away. When things get a bit easier and I feel a bit more spiritual. But Jesus reminds me here that I have to be forceful with myself in seeking the solitude of His presence. That He awaits me in the midst of my distractions and problems.

With flights cancelled, offices closed, restaurants and gyms shut, I have an unprecedented, unexpected opportunity for intimacy with Jesus. He beckons my soul to a place of solitude, away from the crowd, saying: "Come with Me by yourself to a quiet place and get some rest."

# **PART 5: HOPE IN A TIME OF HEARTBREAK (JOHN 20:11-18)**

## **Eat Together (30 min):**

Practice this devotion if possible, or host a virtual meal for connection during social distancing.

## **Worship & Prayer (20 min):**

Read Psalm 33:18-22 as a centering passage to begin your time of worship together.

Choose 2-3 context appropriate songs to sing. Someone can lead you "live" either with an instrument or acapella, or you can pull up a few songs on an online platform like YouTube or Spotify and sing along.

To close, pray *The Coronavirus prayer by Pete Greig* together.

## **Kids (time varies):**

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## **Care (20 min):**

Invite each person to share a brief High/Low (gratitude and prayer need) or Good News Story. Consider having the next person who shares pray a short blessing over the previous person.

## **Discovery Bible Study (30 min): John 20:11-18**

Read the passage, retell the passage, then discover using the following questions:

1. What do we learn about God (Father? Jesus? Holy Spirit?)
2. What do we learn about people?
3. Additional question - Where are we afraid, and how might we drive fear from another person's life today by the simple power of love? (taken from the Lectio 365)
4. What is something you can do to put this passage into practice this week?
  - Is there a sin to avoid? (repent of?)
  - Is there a promise to believe? (take hold of?)
  - Is there an example to follow?
  - Is there a command to obey?

*See the commentary below for more insight on the passage.*

## **Communion (10 min):**

Prepare the elements ahead of time.

Read a short passage (eg. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

Lead everyone in receiving the elements. Consider singing or reciting the doxology.

## **Suggested Closing Prayers (2 min):**

Pray The Lord's Prayer together (Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11:2-4)

Or this closing prayer from Lectio 365:

*Father, help me to live this day to the full, being true to You, in every way.*

*Jesus, help me to give myself away to others, being kind to everyone I meet.*

*Spirit, help me to love the lost, proclaiming Christ in all I do and say.*

*Amen.*

## **Commentary from the passage:**

### **DBS John 20:11-18 Short Commentary (Adam Chiarelli)**

"Woman, why are you weeping?" It's difficult to fully grasp the impact of Covid-19, but without a doubt, countless tears have been shed. All around there are layoffs, climbing death tolls, and no end in sight. Many now live without hope.

In the text, we find Mary heartbroken, confused, and alone. Not only had the Lord been crucified, but now He is missing. Perhaps it was a comfort to at least be near His body, and even it had been taken. Many of us are now facing the same question that may have crippled Mary, "what else can I lose?"

But then comes another Voice and a new question, "Who are you seeking?" Of course Mary couldn't have imagined seeing the risen Jesus. Heartbreak has a tendency to dull our perception, and grief can, at times, distort our view of what is real and what is not.

Yet when Jesus speaks her name, He cuts through the pain of what was and brings resurrection light to her soul. Her eyes are opened and she sees Him. Jesus is the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25).

Coronavirus is real. We must acknowledge, like Mary, why we are weeping. We have all lost much. But we believe Jesus is already working, bringing hope and healing to every broken heart, even now.

*Holy Spirit, will You open our eyes to see and our ears to hear the Risen Jesus as we continue to face the unknowns in our world. Amen.*

## **PART 6: COURAGE IN A TIME OF CONTAINMENT (JOSHUA 1:1-9)**

### **Eat Together (30 min):**

Practice this devotion if possible, or host a virtual meal for connection during social distancing.

### **Worship & Prayer (20 min):**

Read Psalm 4:1,6-8 as a centering passage to begin your time of worship together.

Choose 2-3 context appropriate songs to sing. Someone can lead you "live" either with an instrument or acapella, or you can pull up a few songs on an online platform like YouTube or Spotify and sing along.

To close, pray *The Coronavirus prayer by Pete Greig* together.

### **Kids (time varies):**

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### **Care (20 min):**

Invite each person to share a brief High/Low (gratitude and prayer need) or Good News Story. Consider having the next person who shares pray a short blessing over the previous person.

### **Discovery Bible Study (30 min): Joshua 1:1-9**

Read the passage, retell the passage, then discover using the following questions:

1. What do we learn about God (Father? Jesus? Holy Spirit?)
2. What do we learn about people?
3. Additional question - Where are we afraid, and how might we drive fear from another person's life today by the simple power of love? (taken from the Lectio 365)
4. What is something you can do to put this passage into practice this week?
  - Is there a sin to avoid? (repent of?)
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  - Is there a command to obey?

*See the commentary below for more insight on the passage.*

### **Communion (10 min):**

Prepare the elements ahead of time.

Read a short passage (eg. 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)

Lead everyone in receiving the elements. Consider singing or reciting the doxology.

## **Suggested Closing Prayers (2 min):**

Pray The Lord's Prayer together (Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11:2-4)

Or this closing prayer from Lectio 365:

*Father, help me to live this day to the full, being true to You, in every way.*

*Jesus, help me to give myself away to others, being kind to everyone I meet.*

*Spirit, help me to love the lost, proclaiming Christ in all I do and say.*

*Amen.*

## **Commentary from the passage:**

### **DBS Joshua 1:1-9 Short Commentary (Pete Greig)**

This is an unusual time of constraint and containment, when the natural human impulse is towards self-preservation - mere survival.

Coronavirus began in China where the word for crisis is made up of two characters: the first means "danger" and the second means "opportunity." The danger of this crisis is very real. Everyone is affected in some way. Hundreds of thousands are likely to die. Millions are losing their jobs. But this season of confinement may also be a great blessing. This crisis is also an opportunity for the people of God to "be strong and courageous," to show His love to a world that is being shaken to its core.

The children of Israel were about to cross into new territory. No doubt they remembered the reports of the many dangers that now awaited them. We also find ourselves, much like Israel, facing many questions with little or no answers. Yet we have the same assurance that the Lord is with us. As our borders of safety seem to be shaken, we can rest knowing He is our confidence.

Lord, I ask that I would be deepened and not diminished, emboldened and not terrified, by the pressures of this crisis for the sake of those who don't yet know your love.