



Grove Church Families,

tone: informed, aware, diligent

We are **keeping informed** about the Coronavirus and are **aware** of the latest information for our communities, schools, churches, etc. We will continue to be **diligent** about new communication and will **make decisions fluidly as this is an ever-evolving situation**. With that in mind, let me try to break this up into a few different parts. Here we go... **tone: process**

value: faith center

It is extremely important to **keep this at the center of life: As followers of Christ we need to lean in to our faith**. He **knows** what's up. He is our **confidence**. He invites us to come to Him in **each trial we face and find strength, peace, and healing**. **We won't walk in fear**. We will be **prudent**. This situation is an **opportunity to shine the light of Christ into a world that often lives led by fear**. Which leads me to my second point...

tone:
comfort,
contrast
fear

value: discernment

source: media

Be careful where you find information about the Coronavirus. **Media (TV, online, FB, etc.) gets paid by viewership and clicks** on news blurbs.

They'll **create** online **"news"** titles that **drive fear** because they know **tone: awareness** people will watch or click...and they get paid. And so many people have an opinion but aren't using facts or logic. We all should know by now that **social media gives a platform to "alarmists/experts" that will stir up fear because they get attention**. Unfortunately most of them are self-proclaimed experts at everything and have an opinion every time something alarming or controversial surfaces. **Skip their material entirely!!**

value: discernment

When you do go looking for information, get it from the most **reliable** sources. In the instance of the Coronavirus, look to your **local Health Departments (Snohomish County) and the Center for Disease Control (CDC)** for the most **unbiased** and **helpful** information. **source: gov**
value: truth, utility

What does all of this mean for The Grove Church?

tone: prevention

Out of an **abundance of caution** we are cancelling all gatherings at The Grove Church for Sunday, March 8th. The Snohomish County Health Department has recommended minimizing public gatherings, especially of 50 or more people. **If we ignore that warning** and just one person who attends is diagnosed with the Coronavirus, the **implications of mass quarantine** and the **responsibility of ignoring** the health department's recommendation is simply **irresponsible**. Therefore, we are going to be **prudent and accept their wisdom**. (This Sunday cancellation includes the Senior Class, Christianity Explored, and our Child Dedication Class.) We will take this situation day to day, week to week. This is just for Sunday, March 8th. **tone: consequences, responsibility**
value: prudence, wisdom

tone: provision

So, nothing for Sunday?! We can't have that so **we've got you covered!** We are going to have an **"online gathering" available Sunday morning through our church's website**. It will be worship, the message, and the details you find in a typical Sunday gathering. We will also have video content for Grove Kids and Youth. It's **not ideal but it is a great way to stay connected, be challenged, and enjoy growing in faith** from your smartphone or computer. All you need to do is visit our website at www.grove.church, on Sunday there will be a button labeled "Online Service". Click that button and you will be taken to the page where all of our online content will be. It's that **simple!** (PS. This is another great way for you to have spiritual moments/conversations at home if you've got kids, roommates, etc!) **logistic: online**
tone: not ideal
value: connection transformation
tone: simple

tone: continuity

Another important reminder: **We still have budgets** to meet and bills to pay so I deeply appreciate your **financial faithfulness**. Maybe you've already set up recurring giving at the Grove and this isn't an issue. Great! If not, you can go to grove.church and click on the "give" link and follow **value: faithful**

the directions. You can also text the phrase give2grove to 77977 and our secure giving link will be sent to you automatically. Follow the directions and **help us stay afloat in this strange time.** **tone: adrift**

tone: practical

logistics: personal

Also, **practically speaking**: wash your hands frequently, sneeze/cough into a tissue/napkin and throw it away and wash your hands immediately after. For those at a **higher risk** from COVID-19 extra **precautions** should be taken. Follow the **advice** of your healthcare provider and the CDC. This includes those over the age of 60, those with medical conditions like **tone: protect** diabetes, heart/lung disease, those with weakened immune systems, or are pregnant. Anyone with any of these issues should stay home.

source: relationship

Finally, **we have great relationships with the medical community** and are asking at regular intervals for **perspective** so we can make the most **informed decisions** possible. **value: perspective, informed**

value: prayer, prudence, Spirit

Let's be **prayerful, prudent, and led by His Spirit** as we **navigate this** **tone: process** **ongoing challenge.**

In Christ,
Pastor Nik



