

COVID UPDATE – MARCH 21, 2020

A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR SCOTT



Greetings VKHBC Family!

Lord willing, the plan is to provide a **live video on YouTube of this week's sermon @ 11:00am** for our church and anyone else interested tomorrow morning. The video will also be available to watch anytime thereafter as well on our ["Vankleek Hill Baptist Church" YouTube channel \(click here to view and subscribe\)](#). You may receive a little test video later today which will also help get you connected to our channel and set to view tomorrow's message live.

In addition to the provided video I will suggest the following. Fathers, husbands, spiritually single mothers/wives, and all those living on their own: the primary responsibility of spiritual leadership in your homes will fall upon each of you on Sunday morning as you worship together, as it has every other day of the week and should continue moving forward (cf. Deuteronomy 6:7; Ephesians 5:22-6:4; 2 Timothy 1:5). Regarding Sunday worship for the time being, you've been promoted from getting you and your family to worship together at our church building to now leading yourselves and your families at home. That does not mean no one else has a part to play as you worship together in your homes—actually quite the opposite—as it is your responsibility to encourage everyone to participate in some way (whether that includes someone reading Scripture, or simply encouraging everyone to sing along, or to listen). For those who have struggled with this concept in the past—especially the men, may this provide a little awkward step towards a deeper obedience and joy as you step into your calling as the spiritual leaders of your homes! We all know our wives would do a much better job (just being honest), but we aren't called to do better, we are called to trust in our Lord and honour His Word. This is not a call for wives to step back, **but for husbands to step "down"** and get your hands dirty and serve your families as Christ served the Church. Christ is our Head, both in our homes and when we gather, let us all conduct ourselves accordingly!

For those who are alone, may the knowledge of God's presence and the indwelling Spirit bless you as we do what we can to worship together in one Spirit. As I considered this Colossians 2:5 immediately came to mind, "For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith in Christ." May this be our experience in the coming weeks.

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Let me suggest when you gather for worship.

- **Read Scripture together!**
 - Start your time together with **Isaiah 12:1-6** and a word of prayer
(Perhaps divide verses among different kids to read if you'd like)
- **Sing**
 - **Use whatever musical skills and instruments those in your home may possess to assist your SINGING**, this option is preferable
 - those who could use the help may benefit from using recordings I've suggested on [this playlist to help keep you stay on key \(click here\)](#). The ads are distracting but the videos I've selected all include lyrics making this a simple option that could be helpful to some. (Or feel free to select your own songs from your own resources)
 - **The last song on the playlist "[Behold Our God](#)" is there** because (a) I think everyone should hear it and (b) because it is a fitting message for the church today. The biblical response to all the noise regarding the spread of the Corona virus is not to ignore or make light of what may or may not be taking place in the world, but instead to remember the weightiness and grandeur of our sovereign and loving Lord. Hope and peace does not come by focusing upon hope and peace, it is the overflow of our trust in the Lord. Turn up the speakers and be blessed.
 - Families with young kids might enjoy using some of the songs from the [Getty's 'Family HymnSing'](#) instead

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- **Pray**
 - Please spend time in prayer for brothers and sisters in Christ around the world, our church, our community and the nations in the coming months for wisdom and for unique opportunities to witness to the hope and peace we have in Christ in these days!
 - Take this unique opportunity to pray for the individual needs of one another in your family as well.
- **Read more Scripture**
 - **Daniel 4:24-27** (read previous verses for context if you'd like)
- **Listen/Watch my sermon online together**
 - The [VIDEO should be available to view here on this page](#)
 - Sermon questions for kids:
 - What is withholding mercy from someone a sign of in your own life?
 - How do we become pure in heart?
 - Why does the Christian go out of his way to establish true peace?(If parents are ever unsure about any of the answers, please always feel free to ask me!)

These are my suggestions, like a mentioned, as the worship leaders of your homes, feel free to add, exchange, rearrange as the Spirit of God lead's you by His written Word. You also may need to arrange accordingly depending on whether you watch the message **live at 11am** or at a later time with the recording. E.g. if you want to do everything above before the live sermon, perhaps you should begin with everything else around 10:30???

- Also if anyone desires to contribute financially to our church's ministry at this time you can do so for the time being online at our [website \(click here\)](#).

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On the note of family worship and devotions let me also encourage you all to continue to use the [New City Catechism \(click here\)](#) as a tool to guide your family discipleship and worship times through out the week. I noticed on last weeks bulletin (I don't normally check the bulletin oops) we have gotten a little off track on which question and which answer we were supposed to be posting to keep everyone on the same Question & Answer lol. The bulletin posted Question 11 and the correct answer, but mislabeled it 'Answer 9' for this past week, however (based on where my family and my calendar is at) **we should be on Question 13 for the week of March 22-28** as we began the first question the week of Dec 29-Jan 4. No worries if you have lost track, or fallen behind... If you are having a hard time keeping up as a family than I would suggest you always prioritize comprehension over memorization—make sure to read the Scripture references (and perhaps other related Scriptures if your Bible includes cross-references) and remember that repetition is key... if you or your child has not memorized the question & answer or the Scripture reference by the end of the week, just make sure they understand it and move on. I say that from experience as I have an unimpressive memory.

IF YOU ARE HAVING ANY DIFFICULTY ACCESSING ANY OF THE ABOVE RESOURCES THAN PLEASE CONTACT MYSELF, ONE OF OUR DEACONS (WILL, SHANE, OR DAVID) OR ANYONE IN OUR CHURCH WHO YOU THINK MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP.

May the Spirit of God lead us all, according to the truth of the Word of Christ, to the glory of God the Father!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Scott