

FCC Hamilton Youth Ministry COVID-19 Weekly Update

Dear parents of middle and high schoolers,

In these uncertain times shaped by social distancing and even self-quarantine for some of us, we are striving to find new ways to stay connected to one another. In this weekly update, I'll share what we're doing as a youth ministry in hopes of providing resources for your Sunday worship together as a family.

Family Worship and Family Sunday School

This week, I encourage you to once again watch our livestream worship service and participate together at home. Consider using this [Household Worship Guide for Families](#) to add to your worship together at home on Sundays and even throughout the week.

Beginning this week, we invite middle and high schoolers to join us in a series called, “**Letters to the House Churches.**” Students are encouraged to read through John’s epistles together. Begin by watching the Gospel Project’s video on 1, 2, and 3 John ([click here](#)). *Watch at least to the 3:30 minute mark for a good overview of 1 John!*

We'll begin this week with **1 John 1:1-2:2**. Print a copy of this passage for your teenagers and invite them to use colored pencils or markers to make some observations as they read through it quietly. Then have them journal answers to the questions below. Finally, discuss the questions together. Be honest with your students if you have questions or don't understand the passage fully. Try to use the context of the passage to find answers before turning to a trusted commentary.

Journal/Discussion Questions:

Observe: Do you notice anything repeated in the passage?

What two things does John say he is proclaiming to his early Christian readers?

What does John say is “the message” he is writing?

Interpret: Why is John writing this letter? Look for specific clues in the passage.

What do you think it means that Jesus is the **atoning sacrifice** for our sins? Read Romans 3:25-26 and Hebrews 2:14-18 for clarification.

What does it mean that he is our **advocate** with God the Father? (Elsewhere Jesus said that the Holy Spirit is also our Advocate: John 14:15-17, 15:26, 16:7.)

Try to write a summary statement of the passage. What is the main idea John wants to convey in these verses?

Apply: Sin is any good or bad thing we put in God's place in our lives. How can these verses encourage you when you sin?

Read John 1:11-13 and John 2:29-30. Who are the children of God, according to John? Based on this, how can we understand 1 John 2:2? How can it encourage us that Jesus died for all those who would receive him?

I'd love to hear how your students do with this study! We will be looking for some ways to make it more interactive in the days ahead.

With many prayers for you,
Pastor Chelsea

#HYMdailychallenge



Here are the past week's challenges in case you want to catch up a bit over the weekend:

Day 6: Monday, March 23

Take time to read the news today. Check out what some different news sources are saying about COVID-19. Pause and let yourself feel sadness for those who have been most affected in the United States and other places around the world. Read Revelation 21:1-5 and ask God to help you remember His promises to restore the whole world to Himself. Then pray this wonderful "Liturgy for Those Flooded By Too Much Information." Maybe you could even share this with your families at dinner! <https://rabbitroom.com/2020/03/a-liturgy-for-those-flooded-by-too-much-information/> (Devotion: Isaiah 53:4)

Day 7: Tuesday, March 24

Do a prayer walk around your neighborhood. Ask God to intervene in the lives of those who live in each home. Pray that He would give you opportunities to share about Jesus. Are there apartments or houses where you don't know your neighbors? If you see them out, introduce yourselves (from a safe distance of course!). Maybe you could even invite them to your church's live stream service! Brainstorm with your family tonight about needs you could help to meet in the neighborhood. Be sure to share a photo, video, or story with us using the hashtag #HYMdailychallenge. (Devotional: Matthew 22:34-40)

Day 8: Wednesday, March 25

Sometimes we need a break from all of the heaviness to do something creative and fun. So today we want to invite you to remember the joy of the Lord and share it with others. This project may take more than a day. (Goodbye boredom!) We want you to make a fun video that would encourage or inspire your fellow youth group members! Use your creativity--it could be funny suggestions of how to get through the stay-at-home order with your siblings. Or you could make something about all the reasons you love our church family. Maybe you'll record a devotional for your friends. We can't wait to see your creations! (Devotional: Psalm 100)

Day 9: Thursday, March 26

Make a playlist of encouraging quarantine tunes! Include some songs of praise, some "pump up" songs, and any other jams and bops you're enjoying right now. Keep it clean, of course. Share the list with your youth group friends and tag us @hamilton_ym! (Devotional: Hebrews 12:1-2)

Day 10: Friday, March 27

Clean your room! Use one of the Spotify playlists shared yesterday to motivate while you organize and sanitize! Try to identify at least five things you haven't used in a year or more. Local collections are suspended, but make a pile of things to donate when the virus has passed. Recycle what can't be donated. Be creative! How could stuff you're no longer using be repurposed rather than thrown away? We'd love to hear your ideas, or even see a video of your adventure using the hashtag #HYMdailychallenge.