

# Children and Family

April 2020

WOW! Last Wednesday, March 11 was the day life as we know it changed forever. I was all upset when I was in a group text about postponing Cinderella, Riverside Theatre's spring musical. Well, now five days later, I am thinking that isn't so bad compared to where we are now.

Hopefully, everyone was able to access the Google Slide Presentation that I emailed to everyone for Sunday, March 15. I will be continuing this format for Sunday mornings. It may evolve over the next few weeks. We shall see....If you are not receiving these emails from me, please let me know. I try to keep my email address list up to date but do realize that I make mistakes.



By the time you are actually reading this, my goal is that we have made connecting with one another happen in whatever virtual way works the best. We have to do what we can to stay connected! Our MOPS & MOMSnext group took to moms doing Live videos. In my efforts to be transparent, my video was not pretty. I was ugly crying over the fact that my daughter, Eliana, will not be experiencing all of the end of the year/end of Senior year activities...at least that is how it is looking. Maybe prom will happen. Maybe senior projects will happen. Maybe graduation will happen. It is way too soon to tell.

I did come across something that really spoke to me during this out of control time. It is from [www.instagram.com/abeautifullyburdenedlife/](http://www.instagram.com/abeautifullyburdenedlife/)

**Society:** What about my plans?!

**God:** My plans for you are always better than your own. Don't worry. I'm going to work this all out for your good.

**Society:** We're not going to get anything done!

**God:** That's the point. You know how you keep spinning your wheels—always working, moving, doing—but never feeling satisfied? I've given you permission to stop. I've cleared your calendars for you! Your worth isn't tied to busyness or accomplishment. All you have to do is take care of each other.

**Society:** What does this all mean?

**God:** It means I'm in control. It means you are human and I am God. It means I've given you a wonderful opportunity to be the light in a dark world. It means you are going to learn to rely on me.

**Society:** What are we supposed to do when we can't leave our homes?

**God:** Rest. You are always so busy and overwhelmed, crying out to me weary and exhausted. Can't you use a break from your fast-paced and over-scheduled lives? Go ahead and rest. Pray. Love your families. Be still and spend time with me.

**Society:** You mean we're supposed to stay home with our kids all day, every day?

**God:** Yes. And you're going to be just fine. This time together is a rare gift. The rush of daily life has come to a halt. Play games. Bake cookies. Work on projects you've never had the time for. Teach them kindness and grace. Show them how to endure difficult circumstances and steer them toward me.

**Society:** We better start hoarding anything we can get our hands on!

**God:** Prevention, yes. Precaution, yes. Preparedness, yes. But after that, it's time to put the needs of others before your own. When you see someone in need, help them. Offer up what you have. Do not worry about tomorrow! Haven't I always taken care of you? Now, go take care of someone else.

**Society:** Why is this happening?

**God:** To remind you that I'm in control. To bring your attention back to me. I'm bringing you together as families and neighbors. I'm showing you patience and perseverance. I'm reminding you of your purpose and priorities. Now is the time to learn and teach your children what this life is really about.

**Society:** We don't know who to believe.

**God:** Believe in me. Trust me. Ask me for wisdom and I will surely give it.

**Society:** We're scared!

**God:** I've got this and I'm with you.

My prayer is that at the time you are reading this, things are on the upswing, and we have gotten through the worst of this pandemic. If that is not the case, I pray that the weather has permitted us to be outside and practice "social distancing" but still getting some vitamin D. I pray that we continue to lean in to our God. He is almighty and is guiding us through this time. And we will rest in the knowledge that the things that are happening now will not matter on the day we meet our Savior.

By HIS Grace and through HIS love,  
Tammy

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