# THRIVING IN COVID

# **Moving Forward**

PASTOR CRAIG SWEENEY September 20, 2020

This letter is from Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ. I am writing to God's chosen people who are living as foreigners in the provinces of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia. 2 God the Father knew you and chose you long ago, and his Spirit has made you holy. As a result, you have obeyed him and have been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. May God give you more and more grace and peace.

3 All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is by his great mercy that we have been born again, because God raised Jesus Christ from the dead. Now we live with great expectation, 4 and we have a priceless inheritance—an inheritance that is kept in heaven for you, pure and undefiled, beyond the reach of change and decay. 5 And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.

6 So be truly glad. There is wonderful joy ahead, even though you must endure many trials for a little while. 7 These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.

8 You love him even though you have never seen him. Though you do not see him now, you trust him; and you rejoice with a glorious, inexpressible joy. 9 The reward for trusting him will be the salvation of your souls. (1 Peter 1:1-9 NLT)

## What you can expect--our current plan:

- Heights Church is here to help you and those you love to fulfill your desire to walk with Jesus.
- Mission Create opportunities for people to become fully devoted followers of Jesus.

## **Points of Connection:**

- Church Online
- Wednesday PM mid-week, in-person, outdoor gathering
- Life Groups
- Daily Devotions
- Mid-day, mid-week prayer through social media
- Heights Kids Show
- · Office has reopened

# **Student Ministry:**

- New video messages posted each week.
- Instagram: theheightshsm
- YouTube: The Heights Student Ministry
- Six different Life Groups currently meeting each week online through Zoom
- Starting in October HSM will be meeting every Tuesday night outside from 6:30-8pm.

# **Children's Ministry:**

- Heights Kids Show (K-5th grade)
- Heights Kids Show Jr. (2-5 years) Coming soon!
- Heights Kids Preschool Story Time (2-5 years) Premiering next week! (Tuesdays at 2 pm)
- Heights Kids Elementary Life Groups (Wednesdays at 4 pm)
- Heights Kids Wednesday Live Service (2 years 5th grade) 6:30 pm
- Heights Kids Events:
  - ♥ Movie Night: "The One and Only Ivan" (9/25/20)
  - ♥ Drive Through Trunk or Treat (10/31/20) More details to come.
  - ♥ November Holiday Compassion Project. *More details to come.*
  - ♥ Christmas Family Event. More details to come.
- MOPS Life Group (Mothers of Preschoolers)
- MOMSnext Life Group (Moms of Elementary Aged Kids)

## **Life Groups:**

- In Person
- ZOOM
- Kids meeting via Zoom every Wednesday
- Mops Moms of Preschoolers AND
- MOMSnext Moms of Elementary Aged Students
- Student Ministries College Young Adults, High School, Middle School
- Men, Women
- Married Life
- Classics Chat weekly Zoom group meeting
- Celebrate Recovery
- GriefShare

# **Church Myths of COVID:**

- 1. The Church has been closed for COVID.
- 2. The Church is closed, and I am on my own. I can't get help.
- 3. You should feel ashamed or guilty if you reach out for help.
- I shouldn't be tired or worn out.
- 5. Jesus isn't BIG enough for this season. He is guarantined and masked up!
- 6. God's Church is not BIG enough to overcome the loss of a building.
- 7. You can't lead your family to walk with Jesus closely.
- 8. We might never meet in person again.

## Challenge:

- Anchor Jesus deeper into our hearts.
- Look deeper into your heart for what gets in the way of His peace.
- Invite others to join us on the journey that is Heights Church.

# Check out these FREE online studies from Doug Britton for further study: Knowing God's Will

www.douabrittonbooks.com/resources/bible-aods-will

## God Wants to Use You. You Have a Purpose

www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/you-have-purpose

## **Trust God, Not Your Emotions**

www.dougbrittonbooks.com/resources/do-not-trust-emotions