

changing church

TOOLKIT | SHARING JESUS

10 TOP TIPS

FOR NURTURING

GOSPEL OPPORTUNITIES

evangelical alliance
together making Jesus known



Crisis is a painful, often brutal, and exposing time....

It's when our carefully managed, comfortable worlds crash into the reality that we are not in control and we cannot simply rely on ourselves. Crisis is often the moment when people clearly hear the invitation to, "Come. If you're thirsty, if you are in need, come and drink from the water of life, come and know Jesus." As the church, we get to echo and embody the Spirit's invitation to the world. The coronavirus pandemic has shaken our communities; many people face significant challenges and deep uncertainty. The message of the church, that there is hope, that Jesus is alive, present and able to help, is a message desperately needed at this time. Here are some top tips for your leadership team to think through as your church seeks to share Jesus with all those you encounter.

1. Prayer

Prayer is the fuel for mission. What we pray about is a strong indicator of what's important to us. Is your team prioritising praying about people coming to know Jesus?

2. The scattered

Whilst the church is physically scattered and limited in its ability to gather in person, it is important to recognise and encourage our members in their missional opportunities. How could you support and inspire people to share their faith in their workplaces and in their neighbourhoods?

3. Discipleship

Many of our usual programmes and groups aren't able to function as normal in these times. If someone makes a decision to follow Jesus, how are you as a community going to nurture and develop that person's relationship with Jesus?

4. Community

We are rooted and planted as churches into specific places. Who is your church engaging with beyond your immediate community? How can you listen to the needs and concerns of people around you? How can you partner with them?

6. Online

Many churches have found new ways of engaging through online spaces. As we become increasingly able to physically gather, will you still engage online? How could you blend or incorporate your digital mission field as you move forward?

5. Investment

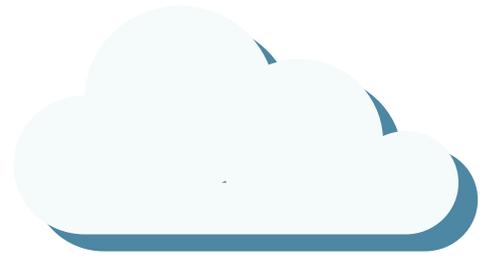
Work always involves cost, and consideration. What you say yes to can mean saying no to other things. If you are saying yes to new or different initiatives, think through the impact this might have on resources and other areas of work.

7. Encounter

People encounter Christians and the church in a wide range of situations. Think through the main places or moments people interact with your church and how you can create gospel opportunities.

8. Questions and needs

The gospel is the good news that meets people's practical and spiritual needs. Consider how to listen to, survey, or connect with people around the church on what challenges they are facing due to the crisis. How can your church address those questions and meet those needs?



9. Words, actions, presence

We share the good news of Jesus through our words, through our actions and by being present. How can you help your church feel equipped and inspired to demonstrate the gospel in their whole lives, wherever they are?

10. Generosity

The pandemic has caused suffering, pain and anxiety to many. Ours is a message of hope, to a world in desperate need. As you look to share Jesus with others, consider how to infuse what you say and how you say with hope, grace and love.

