

changing church

TOOLKIT | SHARING JESUS

5 KEY QUESTIONS

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 key questions for your leadership team to think through as your church seeks to share Jesus with all those you encounter.

1. Who are your people?

Gathering is important, but we must do so in a way that doesn't put people at risk. This may lead to some ministry settings being opened sooner for those who are isolated and lonely, but also proceeding with caution, remembering those who are particularly at risk. And remember, more people have been checking out church online and making a commitment to follow Jesus - so how do we remain missional in this moment?

2. Where are you sent?

There can be a reluctance to talk about money, and staffing decisions are often personal, particularly in smaller contexts. Almost a quarter of churches surveyed said they had reserves but did not anticipate needing them. Churches are often top of people's list in terms of giving, but if people have less income, they have less to give. Congregants need to be honest about their ability to give and leadership teams need to be honest about the type of decisions they are facing. We have responsibility to steward well the assets we have been given. Being open and honest can be painful, but in the long run, it is for the best.

3. What resources do you have and what do you need?

How can you utilise what you already have access to? What additional resource, training and capacity do you need to see your vision for transformation become a reality?

4. How can you work with others?

Do you know what other churches or civic bodies are doing in your area? Can you partner, pool resources or fill gaps? How can you foster a spirit of unity as you seek to share Jesus?

5. What is your priority?

Is seeing people come to know Jesus a priority for you, your leadership team and your church? What else pulls your time and attention? What is God asking you to make a priority, and therefore what do you need to lay down?

It is important that we move ahead soaked in prayer, rooted in scripture, passionate for the gospel and committed to one another in love.

