

## PASTORAL LETTER

For 3/14/20

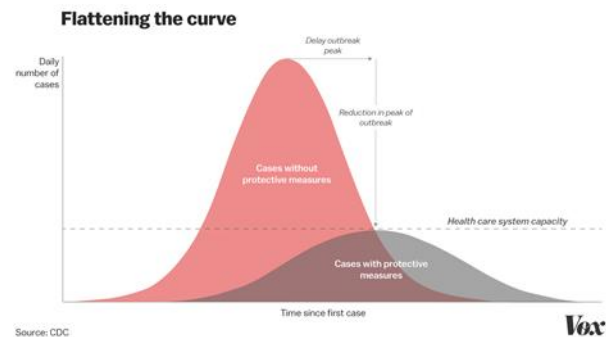
One of the most profound stories of healing in the Bible is contained in 2 Kings 5:1-27. A big and powerful person, who believes he is too important to be subject to the same restrictions and limitations as others, refuses advice that may lead to healing. His servants say, “What is the harm in trying?” He repents, follows the advice, and is healed.

Interestingly, the actions of others, after Naaman’s healing, could also be read as advice on the benefits of social distancing and health.

Often Americans believe they are more special than other persons in the world. Often we Christians believe we are not subject to the same restrictions and limitations as others. Sometimes that is a helpful perspective, when it powers our gumption to shine light within the darkness, or to struggle for justice and redemption in this world of suffering and woe. Other times, however, we suffer from the same blinding pridefulness as General Naaman.

The simple advice to protect vulnerable populations, and to avoid overwhelming hospital and health systems, is to be self-disciplined, and to follow the discipline of social distancing, when possible and appropriate.

Here is a visual of the healthy or unhealthy possibilities of what could happen. Like Naaman, let us humble ourselves. Let us choose to follow the simple advice that may lead to healing. What is the harm in trying?



We will provide tools for worship and ministry, in this week, or weeks, when we may not host a time of gathered worship. These will be on our church website. If you have needs, concerns, or suggestions, please feel free to call me or contact the church office. We will continue to update options and possibilities, as time goes on.

One note of concern, the bills and obligations for our congregation continue, whether our traditional Sunday worship and Sunday School happens or is postponed. Please consider continuing your financial support of our church, by mailing or making an electronic contribution.

Likewise, thank you for all the mission, ministry, and good works that have continued and continue during this time of change and flux. We are blessed to have many faithful disciples that we call brother, and sister. Our ministry is alive and active!

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Chris

Note: Here is a link to a study of St. Louis vs. Philadelphia during the 1918 Spanish Flu. (COVID-19 is NOT the Spanish Flu, but it shows the value of social distancing). [a-chart-of-the-1918-spanish-flu-shows-why-social-distancing-works](#)