

## Reaching Out While Staying In: Ways to make your home your mission field during the COVID-19 quarantine

In a matter of weeks, the entire world seems to have turned upside-down. Schools are closed, businesses are shuttered, and many families are staring into an uncertain future. It's easy to allow despair and feelings of helplessness to overtake our minds and hearts. As challenging as these circumstances are, there are blessings to be found and silver linings to discover. It's a matter of perspective.

Rather than feeling helpless, get your family involved in ministry projects that help others, and instill in your children a passion for ministry. Demonstrate the joy of serving others amid the chaos and see how different life in quarantine can be when you decide to make your home front your mission field.

### For Your Children

Children learn best and feel empowered when they engage in projects on their own. Help them get hands-on, then stand back as they learn to give back with these ministry ideas.

- **Write thank you cards** or draw pictures for the medical staff at your local hospitals
- **Create a book club** with books about missionaries or trusting God in challenging times. Consider these books as a starting point.
  - ▶ Young readers: *Mommy, What Is a Missionary?; It Will be Okay: Trusting God Through Fear and Change*
  - ▶ Middle readers: *The Trailblazer series, Men and Women of Faith series*
  - ▶ Older readers: *The Hiding Place, God's Smuggler*
- **Get crafty.** Let your child create items—pasta necklaces, painted stones, cookies, etc.—that they can share with neighbors—along with a note of encouragement.

### For Your Family

Families who serve together shelter-in-place quite well together! Below are some ideas the whole family can get in on.

- **Create a menu—dine-in and to go.** Grab an apron for your little ones and make dinner for your family and one to share with a neighbor.
- **Turn your porch into an amphitheater.** Take a guitar, ukulele, karaoke machine, or even a plastic bucket and a stick outside and share your musical gifts with the rest of the neighborhood. COVID-19 Unplugged!
- **Grab a donations box and go to town.** Help your children sort through clothes, toys and books to give to those who are less fortunate.
- **Stay apart together.** Stay in touch with your loved ones, especially those who are living alone. Share a virtual hug through Zoom playdates, dinner parties or coffee breaks.
- **Let there be zucchini or basil or strawberries.** Using the power of the internet, learn what produce will flourish in your area and get planting. When harvest time comes, you can then share the food with others who don't have the financial means to keep healthy, fresh food on the table.