
The "Self-isolated" Disciple

In preparation for being stuck at home in these coming days and weeks, you might have been googling the 'secret to successful isolation'. There's lots of creative advice to help us in this new way of doing life, but here are some top tips to being intentional as Jesus' disciples.

These ideas are inspired by Christian brothers and sisters in Italy who've been trying to make the most of their isolation. I hope you find them helpful!

1. Binge on the Bible, not Netflix [Psalm 1:1-2]

Self-isolating might actually mean we have more time on our hands. Wouldn't it be great to use the extra time to read more of God's word, maybe whole books of the Bible in one go! Why not read that Christian book you've never had time to start? Or fight dark thoughts by playing worship music to help you dwell on what is true.

2. Check in with God before checking the news [Isaiah 26:3-4]

It's great to have such amazing access to what's going on in the world... but far more amazing is our access to the one who made it. Let's spend more time trusting and depending on him in prayer because the news is not news to him.

3. Every day is a day to say, "Thank you" [1 Thessalonians 5:18]

These difficult times are a great opportunity to grow in the discipline of thankfulness. Even as we ask him to end the suffering, let's also remember his daily kindness to us even if it's just "thank you God for my hot cup of tea this morning". Why not start and end the day with a thank you prayer.

4. Be in the battle [Genesis 4:7]

This might be a completely new situation for lots of us... but sin is still crouching at the door. It might just be a different door!

5. Meeting up without meeting up [Hebrews 10:25]

Don't let the coronavirus give us an excuse to stop "meeting together". We may not be able to meet physically, but praise God for technology and the ways we can use it to keep encouraging one another. Schedule calls like you would coffees. Eat food over facetime. Make midweek bible study into a 'Google Meet'.

6. As any had need [Acts 2:44-45]

Every day is still a chance to serve each other. Does anybody need groceries? Does anybody need money? Does anyone need prayer? We don't want to get self-centred in our self-isolation. Keep looking out for the family.

7. Submissive citizens [Romans 13:1]

As boredom or frustration kicks in, the temptation to go against government advice whispers in our ear - remember God sits on the throne above them and has given them for our good.

8. The word of God is not bound! [2 Timothy 2:8-9]

Enjoy your freedom to read and share and pass on God's word. There might be unique ministry opportunities in this time: maybe you've got time to start a new 1:1 bible study? You might not be able to leave your house, but the word of God has no boundaries.

9. Light in the darkness [John 8:12]

Keep sharing the gospel with non-Christian friends. This dying world needs the Lord of Life. No crisis is out of his control. What a great opportunity to share the certain hope we have in Jesus.
