



familydinner

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MINISTRIES

Sample Email - COVID

Below is text for a sample startup communication with some examples of specific guidelines that you may edit for your situation and email out to those you invite:

Hello everyone!

We pray you are all doing well. There is no other time in our lives that we have felt a greater need for community & communion than right now. We have discerned that for our own family, we feel ready to open up Family Dinner for whoever is comfortable to join. We hope to begin ...

We hope this can give each family time to discuss & discern what is best for their own family. Obviously this will look different for each family and we completely understand and respect that discernment.

Here are some things we have discussed about how to roll out Family Dinner this month with some precautions:

- We will start with only gathering every other week with the goal to be weekly when possible in our area. This will allow time in between gatherings to monitor any symptoms and gauge how our community & extended counties are managing as things continue to open.

During the Night:

- Families are welcome to bring their own meal, but this is not a requirement.
- All shared food will have utensils and we ask that no children (or adults) use their hands to remove food from bowls/serving dishes. Obviously we will all touch the utensils, so please use hand sanitizer or wash your hands prior to serving your food.
- Plenty of hand sanitizer will be available here.
- Families are welcome to stay outside the entire time if this helps you feel more comfortable.
- You may wear a mask if it helps you feel more comfortable. Please understand that our own family will not be wearing masks, but if it will allow your family to come by wearing a mask, then come on over!
- We will have paper towels in the kitchen & bathrooms for drying hands (instead of cloth towels)
- We will have plastic cups and a sharpie to write names with, so the cups will not get mixed up. You are of course welcome to bring your own cup as well.
- If you see a kiddo place a toy in their mouth or sneeze on a toy during FD, please put it in the basket near the sink labeled "to be sanitized." If it's a big item, you can place it in our laundry room or wipe it down with a Clorox wipe for us. (All stuffed animals will try to stay in the drawer. I will tape it shut :)

Prior to the Night:

- We are sanitizing our home prior to the start of the Family Dinner.
- All people considering coming to Family Dinner (and really any function during this time) are asked to self check prior to coming. If you, or anyone in your family is feeling ill, has a fever, cough, or any other sign of illness, please stay home. If you have been in contact with anyone who has been ill, please stay home.

Additional Social Distancing Options



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We have the above measures in place in hopes that you will feel more comfortable in coming to join us. Further, we want to try and provide additional options for social distancing at Family Dinner. We have brainstormed some ideas with a few community members below. Please let us know of any additional ideas or feedback you have. We are very open and want to hear from you!

- We will have at least 2 areas outside for families who would like to social distance and be at a table situated away from others. (One area with a folding table on the side front yard next to the driveway and an additional table on the backyard concrete area). Although it will likely be difficult to keep the children socially distanced, other adults can be aware & especially respectful of keeping distance from any family who sits in one of those areas or a family who chooses to bring their own picnic blanket.
 - To reach the concrete area and avoid walking through people, feel free to come in the double wooden gate leading to the back yard (right side of house).
 - These families are welcome to bring their own food or eat before coming.
 - If you plan to need one of the tables we have, please text us to make sure it's available. Of course, you could also bring chairs and/or picnic blankets if the table is occupied.
 - Families sitting at the non social distanced tables would be... well, not social distanced ;) We ask they all maintain 6 ft away from the social distanced areas.
 - We can have our bathroom in our master bedroom reserved for only social distanced families with easy access from the back patio.
 - We are considering, once it gets cooler, to have a "masked Family Dinner night" every now and then if it appeals to others.

Please let us know your thoughts on this. Obviously Family Dinner, by the nature of the event, is not really set up for a pandemic. If your family cannot join us, we completely understand and hope you can find at least one other family you can plan a time to join together with. We truly cannot do this alone!

Again, we know that this decision is for each family to make on their own based on your own unique circumstances. We miss you all greatly and you all will continue to be in our prayers! We look forward to the day we will all be in communion again!