



PARKGATE COMMUNITY CHURCH
Love God. Love People. Love Now.

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Hello Friends,

Do you remember playing the game "Red Light, Green Light" as a kid?

During these times, as we are considering the best strategy to relaunch our normal ministry activities, it feels like we're playing a much more serious, grown-up version of "Red Light, Green Light."

Let me state the obvious: We all long to return to normal, where we can safely gather for worship and fellowship without any concerns about a hug or the normal conduct of a child. We want that as soon as possible. That's what we are working toward. That is the "Green Light."

However, let me state another obvious: No one wants to be careless and then feel responsible for someone we love and care about getting sick or, worse yet, losing their life because of COVID-19. That is what we want to do everything reasonable to avoid. That is the "Red Light."

With that in mind, the staff and Leadership Team has been working diligently, deliberately, and prayerfully to develop a wise strategy for how best to relaunch normal ministry activities. We have done several things in this process:

- A detailed study of the relevant guidelines put out by Governor Abbott, the Texas Attorney General, the CDC, and other local officials.
- Lots of discussion with our sister churches in Pasadena and throughout our Church of God family in Texas about their plans and procedures.
- In depth consultation with Texas children's ministry cooperatives, which included expert guidance from pediatricians.
- Digesting more Zoom calls, webinars, and articles than anyone can ever reasonably catalogue.
- Surveying the wider Parkgate family about their feelings regarding when and how best to relaunch and reviewing the 134 responses.

Having done all of that, we have come up with what we believe is a wise and flexible strategy to move forward. Here are the basics:

PHASE 1: Beginning the week of Sunday, May 10, we are encouraging Community Groups to meet in person outdoors, maintaining the appropriate social distance guidelines outlined by the CDC. Perhaps you'll gather at a city park, in someone's yard, under

the pavilion or in the parking lot of the church, etc. This is the major component of Phase 1 for us.

PHASE 2: Assuming the governor moves forward with a further relaxation of guidelines on May 18, we will consider recommending that Community Groups meet in homes on Sundays to watch our online worship service together. To be clear, that will only happen if the governor moves forward on May 18 and we feel comfortable with the latest COVID-19 information. This is the major component of Phase 2.

PHASE 3: If and when circumstances continue to move in a positive direction, we will begin meeting for live, in person worship on Sunday morning, adhering to any guidelines Governor Abbott has put in place for churches. We will not host any Sunday morning classes or children's ministry programs at this time. In addition, we will open midweek IMPACT Student ministry as well as midweek adult Community Groups who typically meet in the building may resume doing so. These are the major components of Phase 3.

PHASE 4: We will further return to normalcy by re-opening midweek elementary-aged children's ministry programming.

PHASE 5: Our final phase will be the time when things finally look normal again, including a full return to KiX Ministry on Sunday morning and adult Learning Hour classes. Sadly, we don't expect to get to this point for many more weeks to come.

Each one of these steps will get a "Green Light" only after careful and reasonable consideration of the latest guidance from government officials and other relevant issues. It may also mean that at some point, if things develop in an undesirable direction, we may have to "Red Light" one of our steps.

Please know that we will be communicating our moves through email, text, and social media clearly and regularly every step of the way.

On the positive side, we will now permanently host online worship, moving to live-streaming the 10:45 a.m. worship service when we return to live, in person worship. This is a move we were working toward even before this crisis, but one that now will have the added benefit of continuing to include those who may need to stay home longer even after we relaunch.

Our KiX Ministry and IMPACT Ministry will continue to offer online content until those ministries are able to resume normal operations. We plan on continuing our Daily Encouragement videos in the [Parkgate Online Facebook group](#) as well.

Thank you for your ongoing prayers and support throughout this crazy time! Please continue to reach out to us. Your words mean a great deal.

Know that we care about you. We love you. We are praying for you, especially as we hear of your struggles in this time. We miss seeing you face to face.

Grace and Peace!

Pastor Jim