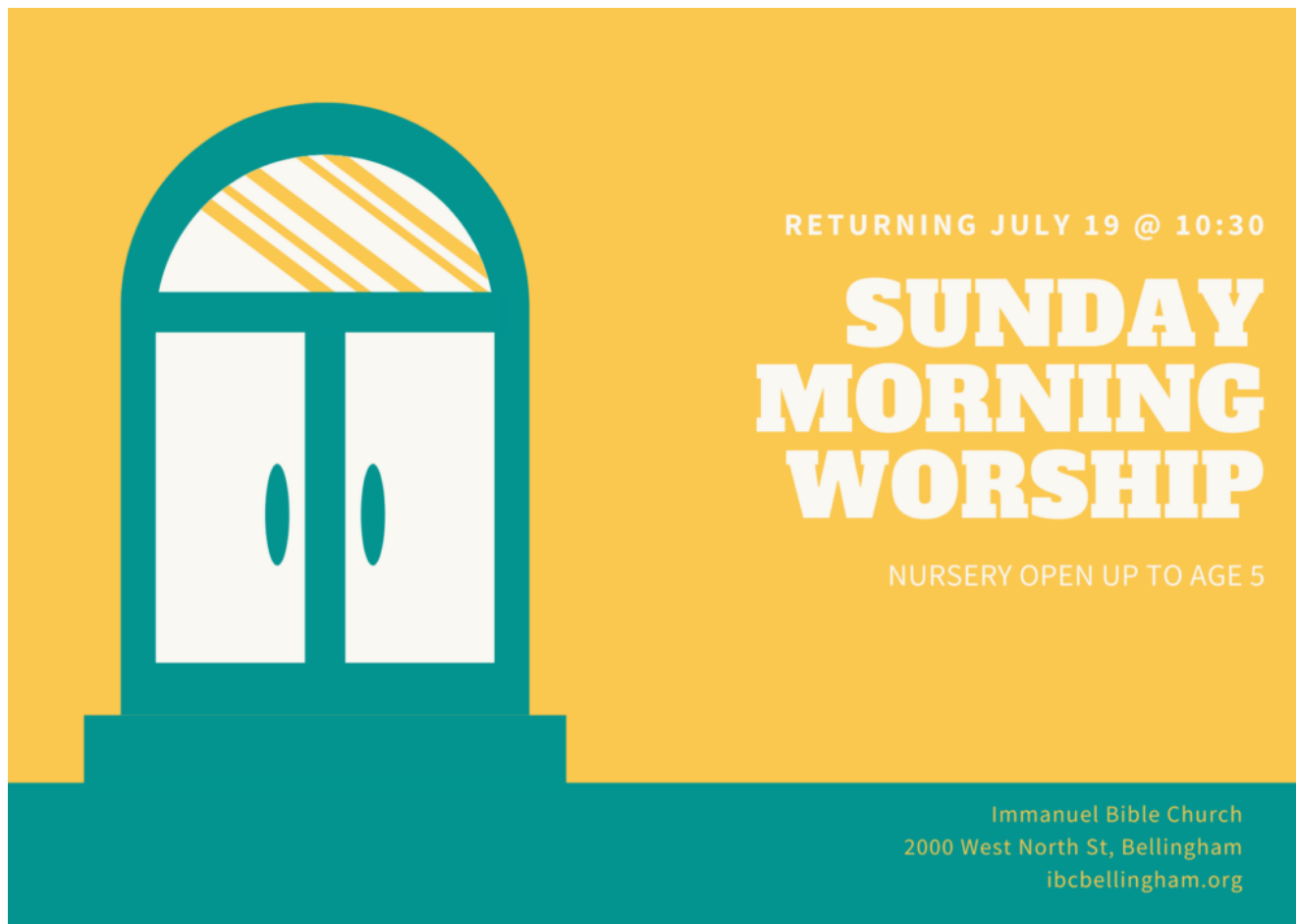


Latest News

Tuesday, 7/7/20



We rejoice to return to worship together! Please note, as we transition back, we will suspend Sunday evening outdoor gatherings and our Video Bible Study. Sunday School and Junior Church will return soon. With updates underway, we will return to a sanctuary with a new look.

As we gather again, we want to do so safely. Do not feel obligated to attend if you have health concerns; if you are not feeling well, please remain at home. We ask that all worshipers please wear a mask and maintain social distancing.

Be praying for unity, safety, and vibrant worship.

Friday, 7/3/20

Friday, 6/26/20

This week's Video Bible Study is postponed one week. We'll pick up where we left off in one week – Friday, 7/3 in First Peter 2:13-17. Thank you for your patience and grace. It will be a blessing to explore Peter's incredible teaching together!

Tuesday, 6/23/20

“Submission” may be an undesirable word ... particularly in a society which prizes freedom and independence. Yet, the Bible has something very specific to say about it. This week, we'll learn about God's will for Christians in relation to governing authorities. You can prepare for Friday's Video Bible Study with the following worksheet ((both links below contain the same content)).

[Click to open Adobe PDF version.](#)

[Click to open Microsoft Word version.](#)

Friday, 6/18/20

Friday, 6/12/20

Monday, 6/8/20

A few updates on life @ IBC ...

- The church office has opened per Phase 2 guidelines.
- Our normal First Peter Video Bible Study will be postponed. Instead, your questions will be answered via Q&A @ the Martin's. A video will post Friday (Lord-willing!).

Friday, 6/5/20

Tuesday, 6/2/20

We'll get to our Q&A time soon during in our First Peter time together (your questions were excellent ... thank you for submitting them). For now, however, we continue in First Peter (2:11-12). We'll learn what's behind our behavior and the incredible opportunities for Christ in good conduct. Drink deeply! (both links below contain the same content).

[Click to open Adobe PDF version.](#)

[Click to open Microsoft Word version.](#)

Friday, 5/29/20

Tuesday, 5/26/20

We're a little light on questions this week, but some are good for personal application. You'll go back to the OT a bit, too. Thank you for participating in the IBC Video Bible Study. Without further ado ... Lesson #11 (both links below contain the same content).

[Click to open Adobe PDF version.](#)

[Click to open Microsoft Word version.](#)

Friday, 5/22/20

Tuesday, 5/19/20

Welcome to another week of Video Bible Study! This week, however, your help is needed. Your questions are invited for a very special video Q&A during a future Video Bible Study time. If we receive enough questions, Heather will host a Q&A with Pastor Michael. Please send questions to Pastor Michael via email, phone, etc.

This week's study comes from 1 Peter 2:4-8. Click below for a

worksheet to study in advance. (Both links contain the same information). May the Lord bless your preparation!

[Click to open Adobe PDF version.](#)

[Click to open Microsoft Word version.](#)

Friday, 5/15/29

Tuesday, 5/12/20

Welcome to another week of Video Bible Study! This week, however, your help is needed. Your questions are invited for a very special video Q&A during a future Video Bible Study time. If we receive enough questions, Heather will host a Q&A with Pastor Michael. Please send questions to Pastor Michael via email, phone, etc.

This week's study comes from 1 Peter 2:1-3. Click below for a worksheet to study in advance. (Both links contain the same information). May the Lord bless your preparation!

[Click to open Adobe PDF version.](#)

[Click to open Microsoft Word version.](#)

Friday, 5/8/20

Thursday, 5/7/20

Tuesday, 5/5/20

Welcome to another week of Video Bible Study! This week, however, your help is needed. Your questions are invited for a very special video Q&A during a future Video Bible Study time. If we receive enough questions, Heather will host a Q&A with Pastor Michael. Please send questions to Pastor Michael via email, phone, etc. Thank you in advance!

[Click to open Adobe PDF version.](#)

[Click to open Microsoft Word version.](#)

Friday, 5/1/20

Tuesday, 4/28/20

Fear?! God wants us to live in fear? Yes. Depending on how you define it, of course. Rightly defined and faithfully applied, fear is a tremendous resource for living the Christian life. In this week's Video Bible Study, Peter discusses fear and why

it matters. (Both links below contain the same content.)

[Click to open Adobe PDF version.](#)

[Click to open Microsoft Word version.](#)

Friday, 4/23/20

Tuesday, 4/21/20

Peter pivots in a new direction in this week's Video Bible Study (1:13-16). He delivers the result of God's salvation, a practical application for the believer. Click below for this week's worksheet (both links share the same content).

[Click to open Adobe PDF version.](#)

[Click to open Microsoft Word version.](#)

Friday, 4/17/20

Tuesday, 4/14/20

Our fifth Video Bible Study will post on Friday. You can do your part by getting in the text, observing, and meditating on this week's passage. Peter reaches a crescendo in his opening salvation encouragement. Be blessed! (Both links share the same content).

[Click to open Adobe PDF version.](#)

[Click to open Microsoft Word version.](#)

Friday, 4/10/20

Friday, 4/10/20

Extension of Closure

"He is
Risen!"

I trust the message of the resurrection season bring you joy. God has been kind to give His Son as our salvation. What a privilege to be irrevocably part of the family of God. Though we are apart, we are united by the shed blood of Calvary.

We celebrate the resurrection of our Lord this Sunday. Unfortunately, we do so apart from the body of Christ at

Immanuel. In response to the extension of Governor Inslee's "Stay Home-Stay Healthy" order, the suspension of gatherings at IBC is extended through May 4. Staff continue to work from home, meetings, and assemblies do not take place at church. I would like to personally make a few remarks about this; please click on the picture to go to a video.

Our Lord graciously provides us with technology, leaders, and gifted servants to make ministry opportunities available to you. A weekly Worship Service is available on our church website (click the circle "Online Worship Services"). A Bible Study in First Peter with worksheets and video is also on our website (click the circle "Latest News"). Our church Facebook page carries resources and links to serve you in this time of distancing.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is our hope. It's a hope of our future resurrection and eternal life in heaven. It's a hope of new bodies—glorified—never to suffer disease or fear again. The resurrection reminds us that we will be with Christ—and do so forever.

May the Lord bless you and your family this resurrection season,
Pastor Michael

Thursday, 4/9/20

Wednesday, 4/8/20

“We’d like to serve ... what can I do?”

We asked this question to our local Lighthouse Mission. Here’s what they said:

1. Pray for the health and well-being of Mission guests and people without shelter, as well as Mission staff and volunteers.

2. Write an encouraging note to a Mission guest (email to contact@thelighthousemission.org or mail to P0 Box 548 Bellingham WA 98227)

3. Support financially (any amount will help provide food, shelter, and hope for a neighbor) <https://www.thelighthousemission.org/donate/>



Tuesday, 4/7/20

“You greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible.” Wow! That’s some joy. Grab a sheet below and learn more. The Video Bible Study will release this Friday. To prepare, click either link below (they both share the same content).

[Click to open Adobe PDF version.](#)

[Click to open Microsoft Word version.](#)

Friday, 4/3/20

Tuesday, 3/31/20

I hope you’re encouraged by the experience of Peter’s audience. They understood what it meant to persevere in trials: this week, we discover one of God’s purposes for suffering. The Video Bible Study will release this Friday. To prepare, click either link below (they both share the same content).

[Click to open Microsoft Word version.](#)

[Click to open Adobe PDF version.](#)

Friday, 3/27/20

Thursday, 3/26/20

Hello church family,

“The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end.” You and I experience the truth of this verse this very hour. Songs have been sung of this passage by those who have gone before us: famous hymns written in tumultuous times (see Lamentations 3:23). They—like us—experienced challenging times. We all experience God’s mercies.

The church family at Immanuel is a vessel of those mercies. Many are calling and writing as a means of encouraging others. Your elders are making wise leadership decisions and shepherding the flock through various forms of communication. Though the season has changed, there is no change to the thirst and desire God’s people have for Him: you continue to receive His mercies through technology and in new and varied ways. We receive God’s mercies as we look forward to reuniting in His time.

His mercies

BEGIN AFRESH
EACH MORNING.

LAMENTATIONS 3:23

The work of ministry in your church continues. In light of Governor Inslee's "Stay Home-Stay Healthy" order Monday, staff will work from home until at least April 6. There is also a stoppage of all group gatherings at church through April 11. The weekly worship service will continue to be recorded and available at ibcbellingham.org: Video Bible Study, Facebook resources, children's lessons, and small group conferencing

are now all active.

Thank you to our ministry leaders and technology pros for their creative spirit!

Your church family is here to serve you. If you have any needs or just need to talk, be sure to reach out. Your elders are available; Pastor Michael may be reached on his cell phone. The Coronavirus will come to an end. God's mercies will not.

May the Lord be glorified, Pastor Michael

Tuesday, 3/24/20

Video Bible Study worksheet for week #2.

Welcome back ... or welcome for the first time! We're moving into an in-depth study of First Peter, entering the body of the letter (1 Peter 1:3-5). For [an overview of the book with helpful background, click here](#). To prepare for the Video Bible Study lesson posting Friday, click either link below (both share same content).

[Click to open Microsoft Word version.](#)

[Click to open Adobe PDF version.](#)

Friday, 3/20/20

First Video Bible Study Video debuts Today!

Thursday, 3/19/20

Greetings brothers and sisters in Christ,

May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure. I write to you as one privileged to serve in pastoral ministry. The measures we take to combat COVID-19 challenge me to serve in new and different ways. I imagine some aspects of your life look different now as well. Though life is temporarily changed, the unchangeableness of our Lord is well worth remembering. In Hebrews 13:8, the Bible says "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." He never changes! The next verse commands us: "Do not be carried away by varied and strange teaching; for it is good for heart to be strengthened by grace ..." (Heb 13:9). Just as new ideas about our precious Scriptures appear, so too will the varied news cycles fail to cease. In this time of testing, we will be stormed by temptation, panic, and worry. The battle against the Coronavirus is as much a battle for our minds as it is our health. Remember Christ—your unchanging King. Keep

your mind fixed

upon Him and use these times as opportunities to commune in deeper ways.

I aim to help you. Here are a few ways ministry to you is advancing at Immanuel:

- Full worship services in video will be available on our website (ibcbellingham.org)
- A Video Bible Study through First Peter has begun. Download the worksheet on Tuesdays and dig deep (!); watch for the companion video lesson on Fridays on our website. (Worksheets and video links are on our website.)
- Our church Facebook page regularly carries links to spiritual resources for your mind and family. This week, we posted sermons, children's music, and writings about COVID-19 from a Christian perspective.
- A remote conferencing tool for church Bible Studies, boards/committees, and all other ministry gatherings is now available to our ministry heads.
- Our church website is mission central for many resources and all updates.

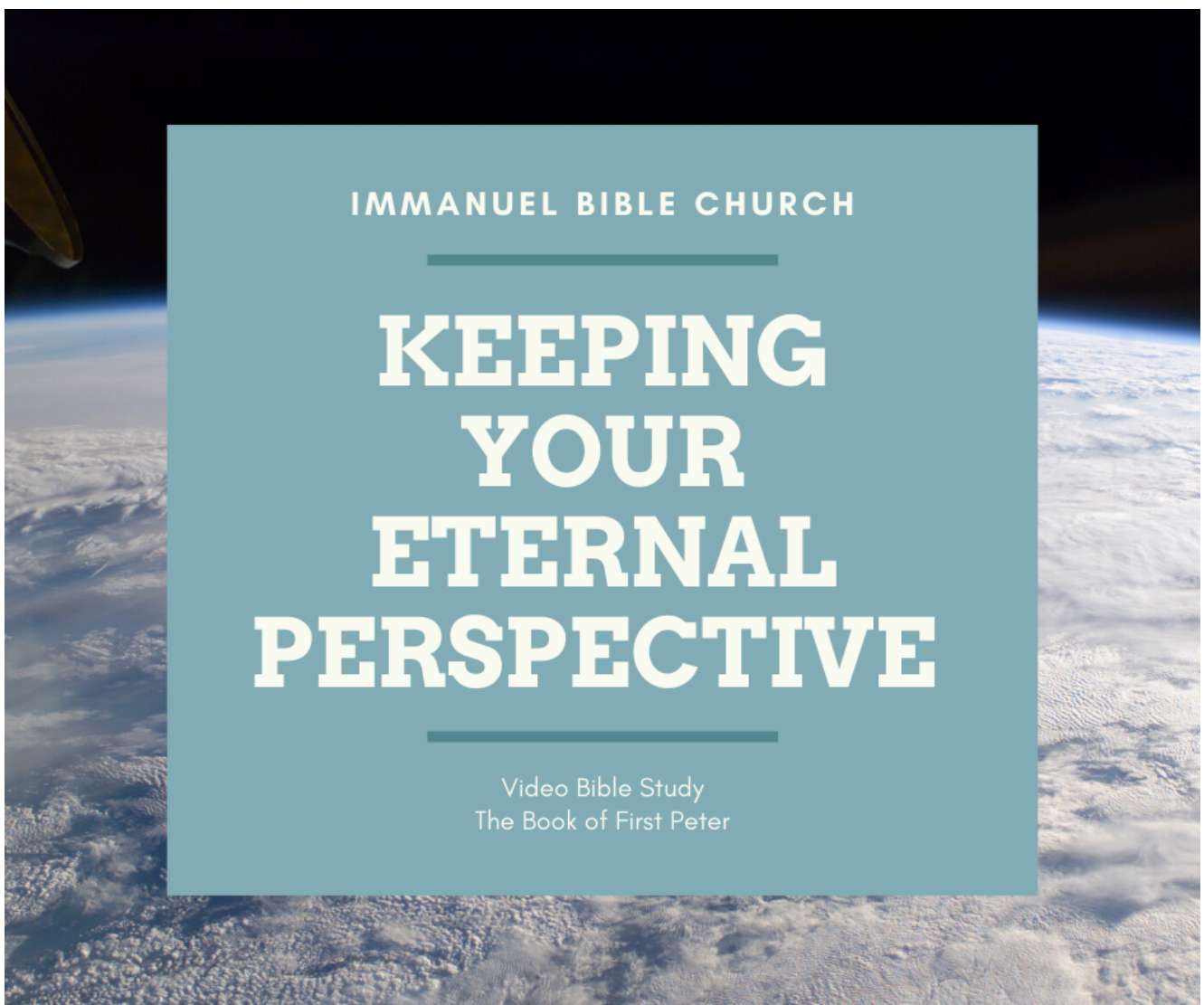
Our gatherings remain halted through at least Saturday, 3/28. The elders and I will discuss next steps next week—in an overflow of love and faithfulness to their calling, these men are in the process of contacting each of you. Please share your needs with your shepherds, as they arise.

God is sovereign over the big stuff—and the small. Remember

Jesus Christ! And may you and your loved ones thrive in His grace in this season, Pastor Michael

Tuesday, 3/17/20

Video Bible Study Launches Today!



Missing your Bible Study? Join Pastor Michael in a video Bible Study through First Peter. On Tuesday, a worksheet will guide you through a passage. On Friday, a video will be available

that teaches through the passage, incorporating the work you've done. This is a great way to grow while apart and make good use of your mind and time.

Let's get started with Week #1! (both files have the same content)

[Click to open Microsoft Word version.](#)

[Click to open Adobe PDF version.](#)

Sunday, 3/15/20

May the peace of God be upon you in a restless time. God is faithful and He is our sure hope! I'm writing to give you a few updates from your local church ...

- Closures at Immanuel are extended through Saturday, 3/28. The elders are monitoring events and will continue to assess the timing of an opening.
- Sunday Morning Worship Services will be available online at ibcbellingham.org. Sunday, 3/15 is audio; we aim to add video beginning 3/22. We are continuing our expository preaching series through Matthew. Keep worshipping and please keep giving.
- The church website will be the central location to find a variety of resources. The church Facebook page

will also be active

and the church office is receiving phone calls.

- Your elders will be in-touch with all members and regular attenders. Their heart is to pray, encourage, and meet needs. *If you have specific physical needs, be sure to tell them. Do not try to navigate hard times alone.* They are working with the deacons to serve you. I am personally very encouraged by the godliness and leadership I've seen from our men this past week.

Now is our opportunity to do what Christ calls us to. People are afraid, worried, and panicked. You have answers to each of these emotions.

The time is ripe for the hope of Christ and the gospel of good news. If you

encounter physical needs others have, please let us know those as well. At

Immanuel, we are keenly interested in taking advantage of these opportunities

for Christ.

May the Lord bless you and your family, Pastor Michael