

CHURCH RE-ENTRY  
ROADMAP:  
CREATING A  
PLAN FOR YOUR  
MINISTRY

Created by

**DAVID C COOK™**

in partnership with The Ministry Spark Team

## CHURCH RE-ENTRY ROADMAP: CREATING A PLAN FOR YOUR MINISTRY

Published by David C Cook

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[David C Cook](#) is a nonprofit organization, founded in 1875, dedicated to serving the global Church with life-transforming, Christ-centered materials. Headquartered in Colorado Springs, Colorado—with offices in Illinois, Ohio, Tennessee, and the United Kingdom—David C Cook’s resources are published in over 150 languages and distributed in more than 170 countries.

When you buy music ([Integrity Music](#)), books, curriculum, Bible studies, or any other David C Cook resource, you help share the good news of Jesus. With partners in some of the most difficult to reach places on earth, we are translating and contextualizing biblical resources so God’s word can transform minds and hearts across the world.

### **About The Ministry Spark Team**

The [Ministry Spark Team](#) is made of ministry volunteers, leaders, and experts who work with David C Cook. We’re passionate about helping others know, love, and follow Jesus. And, we have a big heart for those who serve the kingdom—that’s you. Together, we can do this!

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# INTRODUCTION

*The Church has never been about the building.  
The Church is about the people and our people have been  
changed because of COVID-19.*

As we all look at re-entry, we will have to make decisions for our individual churches, ministry areas, and congregations. We are each called to live out the mission of our churches—and those missions will vary.

Think about this for a minute: you have been invited to go to a country where no one has ever gone.

There is nothing written about it. You can't Google it. There is no roadmap for it. There is no strategy for it. There are no books for it.

We hope to help you navigate through these roads and into a new country.

*So, where do we go from here?*

## Lessons from the Old Testament

In Ezra and Nehemiah, the people had been moved into exile. They were exiled from their faith community. They were exiled from their work community. They were exiled from their extended families. And in some situations, they had just been removed from all that they had known.

And so, the beautiful part of Ezra and Nehemiah is that these exiles get to go home. They're getting to return to the place that had been their nation's Capital building. It's the place where the temple of God had stood, and it's no longer there.

As they return, they begin to rebuild the foundation of the temple. The people celebrate and praise God as they remember His faithfulness to them.

But if you look carefully in that story, you will find the older generation that's returned—the ones who knew Solomon's temple. They are now looking at this new temple and it does not look the same. It doesn't hold the same grandeur. It doesn't hold the same meaning to them that that original one did. And they are struggling.

That's true for what's going to be happening for us.

What your church was before this break—this physical hiatus that we've taken because of COVID-19 is going to be changed on the other side. Maybe not the building itself, but for each of us, the Church has never been about the building.

The Church is about the people and our people have been changed because of COVID-19.

We have people who are really struggling to know what is safe and what is good.

*We are going to have to help make the best decisions we can.*

We each have to take the time to care for the flock we have been given. As we go on this journey, remember your congregation and build the roadmap based on what will work best for you.



.....

You can use this roadmap for your whole congregation, but you also may have to use it for your different ministries. [Children's ministry](#) will look very different from adult Sunday school during this time. And small groups will look different than your senior adult ministry. That's okay.

.....

## The Journey: What to Expect

On this journey, we will go through 5 areas that will help prepare our churches for re-entry and guide us on where to go from here. You can use this as a planning tool for your entire church or for a specific ministry area.

*Reevaluate often. It is the new norm.*

As you go deeper into this document, you'll see that there will be different phases (or lanes) that will change over time. You'll have to be flexible and reevaluate often.

### **Remember & Reflect:** Recalling What Worked

It's important to remember where you've been, while remembering that where you've been doesn't have to be where you're going. Recall what has worked, and what hasn't. There has been no greater time to change-up what you're doing.

### **Reset:** Getting in the Appropriate Lane

As we move forward, let's ask ourselves and our teams what lane suits your church at this specific time (or in your current phase). You may need to reset expectations while also being sure you are staying true to your ministry's mission and core values. This is about getting in the best lane that works for your body of believers.

### **Reestablish:** Creating Best Practices

You'll create the roadmap and build best practices for your ministry in this section. You'll use what you reflected on in the previous sections—Remember & Reflect and Reset—to build these.

### **Reimagine:** Dreaming to Planning

Now that you've set the best practices, don't stop! Dream how to move forward with what you've dreamt up. Dream big! From your dreams and what you've built this far will lead you to planning. With your plan, you'll get ready to Re-Enter.

### **Re-Enter:** Walking into the Future

Walk into the future. And remember—this roadmap is a guideline for you as you plan and pivot moving forward. You can always go back to Reimagine and build a new path from there.

Let's get going!

.....

We've included a checklist at the end of this to guide you as you walk through the phases of re-entry! You can do this.

.....



# REMEMBER & REFLECT:

## Recalling What Worked

*It's important to remember where you've been, while remembering that where you've been doesn't have to be where you're going. Recall what has worked, and what hasn't. There has been no greater time to change-up what you're doing.*

I know we have already said this, but it is worth repeating. We are not *reopening* our churches; we are making plans to **re-enter** the building. And in doing so we will set up the necessary best practices that allow us to most effectively continue to serve and care for ALL the people in our church—just like we always have.

*We are not reopening our churches; we are making plans to **re-enter** the building.*

## What Worked Before COVID-19

But first, let's take a few minutes to remember what was already working pre-COVID and where we may have been looking to adjust.

### **Your Turn!**

Pause a moment and picture what was working well (pre-COVID) in different areas of your church (or just focus on the areas you are currently making plans for).

Now do the same exercise for any areas that come to mind where you were already looking to improve or change-up one way or another.



For both questions, here are suggested areas to reflect:

Commitment to living out the core values and mission of your church

Staff

Volunteers

Attendees

Giving

Community outreach

Ministry groups/small groups (children, youth, women, men, seniors, family, etc.)

Sunday school/midweek class ministry

As we go forward, prepare your heart by asking God to reveal where you may need to re-center on what really matters.

*In this season you have already learned to adjust plans, get creative,  
and remain flexible!  
Carry those skills forward with you.*



# RESET: Getting in the Appropriate Lane

*Now let's determine the appropriate lane for your church over the coming months. Every church will be different based on several factors. And that starts with knowing your people!*

There will be different groups to lead during this time (and several scenarios to consider). As you plan for re-entering your physical spaces you will need to reset (and manage) expectations.

*The emphasis here is to get in the lane that works for your body of believers rather than what other churches may or may not be doing.*

You know your church! And from there, your teams can come together and plan what is needed as a whole or within each ministry area. Details can be worked through while also being prepared to adapt along the way.

You will need to consider the following 4 groups as you determine and develop your re-entry plans.

*Note that none of these groups are better or more spiritual—it is simply the reality of our current culture and varying results of our experiences. As the leaders appointed in this season, continue to lead forward.*

Four groups to plan for:

1. The Fast Lane
2. The Middle Lane
3. The Slow(er) Lane
4. The Shoulder Lane

## 1. The Fast Lane

This group will be walking through the doors on the first day. They may be excited that your building is *finally* open and frustrated that you didn't open it sooner! The key with this group will be to leverage their passion while ensuring the right pace.

Not everyone will feel as this group does. You will want to be confident that as a congregation you are not unknowingly pressuring anyone to come back to a physical space before they are ready.

Lead this group in developing understanding and sensitivity to the other groups.

## 2. The Middle Lane

Based on what we at David C Cook have been hearing from our ministry partners, groups #2 and #3 are more than likely the segments where the majority of your congregation falls.

This particular group—The Middle Lane—will be listening carefully to everything you say, watching how you open the physical doors, and be willing to pivot and participate—albeit pragmatically.

Lead this group with assurances that you have the bases covered.





### 3. The Slow(er) Lane

This group is more cautious and will more than likely still expect a style of hybrid church (think virtual with physical options) for the foreseeable future.

They are and will be listening just as closely as The Middle Lane, however with more caution and observation on how you execute your best practices.

Lead them with respect as you OVER communicate about everything.

And honor every point of view as you seek first to understand.

### 4. The Shoulder Lane

This group will be your last group to return to a physical space. And let's face it, for some of us we did an exceptional job with providing virtual church options and this group loves it! For now, we suggest not being overly concerned about this group.

That doesn't mean you are not still reaching out, communicating, and even encouraging your virtual church options. For some individuals they will take a wait and see stance about everything, not just what your church is doing. And of course, some still have very legitimate health concerns.

This is a recognized season for this group.

Lead them by being patient and waiting with them.

#### **Your Turn!**

As you determine which group the majority of your church attendees fall into, you can begin to think through the effects on different ministry areas of your church that you are planning for. Plan to reset expectations while staying true to your mission and core values.

Before we move to the next section and dive into the details of your re-entry plan, pause to consider where your church is today and the impact these groups will have on each area.

Use this time to ask yourselves and your team: What's staying, what should go, and where do we pivot based on where our people are at? Remember the very real fact that everyone is facing different circumstances. This has been magnified during this time. Some of your congregants and children have faced real trauma in this time as well. How can your ministry help?

Determine what your different ministries could look like. Think staff, volunteers, and attendees for each ministry area.

Main Services – worship, greeters, sanitation, etc.



Kids Ministry – by age level (nursery to preteen)

Youth Ministry

Adult Sunday School Classes and Small Groups

*Get in the lane that works for your body of believers. And remember that new models of ministry are being created and will inevitably have multiple phases for the foreseeable future.*

And above all remember this:

*“Don’t throw away the progress you’ve made during this season. All of our churches have tried things we’ve never tried before during this time, and a lot of us have discovered things that are really effective. Let’s keep those things around and let go of the things that weren’t as effective previously.” –[95Network](#)*

It will look like a hybrid ministry (digital and physical options) and in planning for that we are also preparing for a model that can sustain your church in the unexpected seasons ahead.

No matter what, as a church body, we are looking to continue ongoing connection. That is what we do.



# REESTABLISH: Creating Best Practices

*You'll create best practices for your ministry in this section. You'll use what's learned in Remember & Reflect and Reset to build these. They will lead us into Reimagine and Re-Enter.*

Your church is entirely unique. Every church has differences—be it size, location, and the people who make it. Due to these differences, [there's no “one size fits all” option](#) when it comes to reopening your physical spaces.

Start by taking an inventory of where you're at right now. Then, explore some of the options below and determine what will work best for your community. You may feel most comfortable sticking to a completely [digital format](#) for now—that's okay. As states begin to reopen, it's also good to look at your physical meeting choices.

There's a plethora of ways to ensure your church is being filled with God's Word and you need to find out what will work best for your congregation in spreading that message.

*Think about how you can facilitate a hybrid ministry—a mixture of digital and physical options to service your church community.*

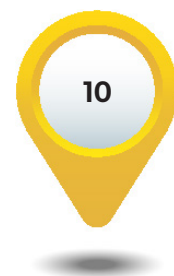
And remember, the Church has no walls!

## **Your Turn!**

Take a moment to write down everything your church is currently doing.

How are you communicating with your people?

Are you meeting in any capacity?



Do you have digital ways to connect? Physical ways?

Everything you're doing is important, so add every little thing to your list. Note the most successful items and spend a moment or two reveling in your accomplishments this far.

Make a list of the challenges you've faced in your ministry during this time. Remember, things aren't easy for anyone right now.

It's important to recall the obstacles you've had to overcome so you can better prepare yourself for the future and to help propel yourself forward in your planning process.

Now that you have a strong idea of where you're at right now, it's time to begin looking forward.

.....  
We've included a checklist at the end of this to guide you as you walk through the phases of re-entry! You can do this.  
.....

As we begin [moving forward](#), you'll want to do the following throughout the process:

### **1. Strategy and Planning**

Think missionally and act strategically. Go back to your mission statement and ask how to fulfill your call in this ongoing season.

### **2. Policies and Procedures**

Beginning with a reevaluation of your internal policies gives you a starting place to make improvements all the way around. You'll want to [create a handbook](#) or edit what you have.

### **3. Resources and Training**

Take inventory of your resources (people and items) and think about what you can use moving forward. As always, train as you need to.



#### 4. Volunteers and Leaders

Remember to continuously be connected to your volunteers and leaders as you empower them to take ownership during this time. Make sure your team is on-strategy and ready to equip your people however works best for your church.

*Think missionally and act strategically.*

## Hybrid Ministry

Below are different options and ideas for your ministry. These are intended to show you different opportunities churches are using to connect their people. You may need to alter them to fit your ministry.

You may find they inspire you to make new solutions that will best serve you and your people. And you may already be doing some of them—that's great!

### *Digital Landscapes*

In the current state of the world, some of the best options to keep people safe are digital ones. Here are some examples of what other churches are doing to [keep their community vibrant](#) and ministered to during this time:

#### **Live Stream**

Facebook has a great application for this! This is a good idea for churches even as they are re-opening.

Don't forget about your children's ministry during this time either! Live streaming (games, story time, worship, etc.) can be a valuable tool in getting your younger audience engaged—and it will [give parents a few moments to breathe](#).

#### **Community-Groups**

Consider creating Facebook, text, or even email groups with members of your church. Survey people to find their interests and preferences as you create these groups. This option may feel more labor intensive than others, but it is a powerful way to help people who are feeling alone.

#### **Digital Touchpoints and Communication**

Through texting, calling, facetimeing, and emailing, there's so many different ways to stay in contact.

Make sure your people are hearing from your church, seeing leaders, and that your volunteers and leaders are doing the same with them!

### **Your Turn!**

What are the ways you've been reaching out to your congregation that have been working and you want to continue?



What are the things that you want to try?

## *How to Grow your Digital Ministry*

Whether you had a strong online presence pre-COVID or not, there is no time like the present to take things a step further. Think of your website and social media as a new advertisement and entrance of your church.

*People are seeking truth right now, and they will look everywhere to find it.*

[Going digital in the church](#) has taught us so much! There are a million voices accessible by your church community, make sure that yours is one of them.

Make posts every day, share content often, and encourage your people to participate on your social media accounts.

You should also ensure your contact information is up to date.

### **Virtual Teaching**

Beyond the youngest of children, all the different ministries in your church can participate in [virtual teaching](#). Everyone can benefit from learning and being in community during this time.

Set meeting times for all the classes and ministries in your church. It will feel different. There will be a learning curve for you and your participants, but it will be worth it.

### **Congregation**

Preach to all your people. Whether it's through livestream or a pre-recorded video, continue the education of your church community.

Start by giving them something to think about every week.

### **Children's Ministry**

If you're not ministering to the children in your church, who is?

Don't forget about the smallest, most influenceable minds in your congregation. They may be too young to fully grasp the message of your sermon, but they are still seeking the Word of God. Don't miss out on educating them!



Ask your volunteers if they're interested or able to continue [Sunday school lessons](#) through a digital platform. Set up your classes and let your children learn.

And if you aren't doing this—[do something!](#) It's important to families that their children are being engaged during this time.

### **Small Groups**

Small groups will feel different than a classroom or a circle of chairs, however, you may find some benefits from this model.

Many people feel more open to discussing topics over a digital platform and the convenience of not having to leave home may encourage more people to participate. Virtual meetings act as a strong opportunity to connect your people and continue their [faith formation](#).

### **Home Learning**

If you're running into too many obstacles tackling virtual teaching, look into home learning. There are many [free lessons on Ministry Spark](#), fueled by David C Cook, that can help start the process. Send them out to your families and use them as an outline to create your own lessons families can use from the comfort of their homes.

Hopefully your church can benefit from using some of these virtual teaching options. Try them out and tweak them to fit your church's unique circumstances!

## *Physical Landscapes*

As social distancing restrictions begin to loosen, there are some areas of the country where people are allowed to meet in physical settings.

If you are comfortable opening up your church, consider some of the following options:

### **Parking Lot Church**

Encourage people to leave home while being safe. Broadcast your worship service through FM radio, allowing your congregation to listen and participate from the parking lot in their cars.

This is a really fun option to simply get people out of their houses and into the world!

### **Small Groups**

If you're in an area where people are allowed to gather in groups of 10 or more, consider allowing your small groups to meet in person—or break up your larger classes into a small group.

Social distancing guidelines need to stay in place (i.e. chairs spaced 6ft apart and masks worn during meetings) but having a physical way to meet may be nice for people who are ready to be together again.

### **House Church**

If you feel like meeting in your church is too big of a liability or you want to present more socializing options for your people, consider house church. Encourage members of your congregation to meet in small groups at someone's home and worship together.



Ask them to watch your livestream and encourage them to discuss afterwards. Members of your community may already be doing this but it's something you should mention to everyone!

### **Worship Reservations, Smaller Worship Services**

While it doesn't feel good to turn people away, not everyone in your church is ready for social gatherings again. Make online sign-ups for services so people who are ready to be physically present can come and worship together.

This may mean you have shorter services and more of them. Again, consider what social distancing safety guards will need to be in place for people to come together. Things like having areas taped off, cleaning between services, and following CDC guidelines will be important.

### **Your Turn!**

Which of these avenues might work for your church as you begin to move from isolation to open doors?

## Guidelines and Policies to Think About

If you are considering physical gatherings again, make sure you have all of your bases covered in your [guidelines and policies](#). Check the current [national](#) and [CDC guidelines](#) and strictly follow them. This will help keep your people safe and ensure the least possible chance of further virus spread.

Additionally, check with your current state and local guidelines to see what's allowed in your area.

You will also want to review your current [handbook, wellness policy, and procedures](#) as we move forward.

### *Handbook*

Pull your [handbook](#) and mark the things that will still work and those things that need to be edited.

Look at items like:

- Ratio of kids to leaders
- Updated contact information for informing families if someone was to become infected
- Physical contact
- Questions like: Are masks required? For your children's ministry, are bags allowed or do you supply families with plastic baggies to put their children's necessities in?
- Gathering policies in the restrooms, hallways, etc.
- If you take temperatures, what are the legal implications if someone gets sick?





## Wellness Policy

If you don't have a wellness policy, take the time to create one or borrow one, and communicate about it to your families. You want to have guidelines for them to follow as they come back safely.

Things like:

- Symptoms
- When to stay at home

## Procedures

There are a lot of procedures to think through as we reopen.

Items such as:

- Flow of traffic
- Keeping rosters of everyone in rooms with one another
- Volunteer rotations (Questions like: [Is it safe to expose children to different people every week?](#))
- Do you have someone else who can run your ministry if you were to become ill or need to be quarantined? Does your rotation reflect that?
- Practicing how long it would take to clean items in your church between services
- Informing your leaders on the things you need, questions you have, and items you still need to explore
- Do you use a reservation system?

### **Your Turn!**

Take the time to write in the space other items in your handbook and wellness policy that you need to review. If you don't have these things, [what policies and procedures do you need to build?](#)

Communicate all of this information with your people. While they should already know things like “you need to wear a mask in public” and “you should stay home if you're sick”—it's important that you restate them.

Again, following these policies will help keep everyone in your congregation safe and healthy.



## *Simple is Okay*

Try not to let these options overwhelm you. You know what's best for your people during this time. Minister to them in the way you know best. They will be thankful for anything you provide to them.

*Simple is okay!*

You don't need to reinvent the ministry wheel; you just need to be there for your people. Ask them what would be helpful to them during this time and do your best to meet those needs.

And don't do it alone! Get support from your church team, volunteers, and families.

*A church is made of up of its people, allow everyone to participate in getting things physically running again.*



# REIMAGINE: Dreaming to Planning

*Dream how to move forward with the best practices you've dreamt up. Dream big! From your dreams and what you've build this far will lead you to planning. With your plan, you'll get ready to Re-Enter.*

*This may seem counter intuitive in this season of change; however, we encourage you to leverage the disruption.*

## Innovation

Innovation is key during the Reimagine stage. There are 5 areas of innovation that your church should explore.

**Context:** *Do we understand what many are calling “the new normal”?*

Continuously check your context—look at what’s happening in the world and how people are feeling. This will be huge when moving forward in the right direction.

**Change:** *Can we adapt fast enough to capture the moment?*

Remember that it’s okay to be uncomfortable in this time. Moving fast is many times better than moving perfectly—although there are some things (like theology and sanitation) you’ll have to be strict about.

**Culture:** *Will our current church culture help or hinder our moving forward?*

Think about how your church culture will impact moving forward. People may be uncomfortable to jump, and so you’ll need to walk them in with support.

**Competency:** *Do those of us on church staff have the skills we need? If not, how will we get them?*

How well-trained is your church staff in the areas that you want to pursue moving forward? There could be attendees that might be able to help train you if not.

**Capital:** *How should we utilize our capital?*

.....  
*For example, think through ways to use your current curriculum. This is considered part of your capital. And remember—check with your curriculum provider for help with the “how to” in this time!*  
.....

This section is about utilizing all of your resources in the best way—think people, places, and things—not just money.

Take a moment to think about these areas and how your church could innovate in order to improve as you move forward.



As we've explored what church has looked like in the past, what it looks like now, and what it could look like moving forward—let's take inventory. Take inventory of where you want to go, the hurdles you could face, and ways you can navigate those hurdles.

Where do I see our congregation heading in the first phase of reopening, and where do I hope we go by the time we are fully reopened (physically)?

What hurdles could we face as we begin this process? This could be anything from maintaining social distancing standards to inability to reach certain members digitally.

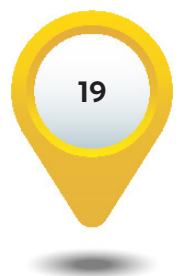
What are some ways you dream of navigating the hurdles you've listed?

In all of this, there is no right answer, and there is no one way to go. We have to be flexible to the needs of our people, to the circumstances around us, and to the very fact that things are changing at a rapid pace.

*In this season, even if flexibility isn't a strength it is a necessity.*

Remember to be innovative in your thinking and doing.

In the space below, dream up the phases of reopening your physical ministry and the plans A and B (and C) for those phases.



You might be able to do this for your whole congregation, but you also may have to do this for your different ministries. Children’s ministry will look very different from adult Sunday school during this time. And small groups will look different than your senior adult ministry.

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We understand children’s ministry is one of the more complex ministries to physically reopen due to the ongoing health regulations and nuances with managing kids and volunteers. Keep in touch with [Ministry Spark](#) for this ongoing conversation!

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As you dream about your ministries, you’ll want to take inventory of what you need within the plan. How will you [manage your volunteers](#)—those who are volunteering physically and those who are digital-based volunteers in this time.

*Reimagine your volunteer roles and make sure to communicate often.*

## Additional Volunteer Positions to Consider

Take a look at your church’s mission and reimagine what volunteer roles will look like as we move forward. Here is a quick list to get you started as you dream.

### *In-Person, at Church, Volunteers*

- Sunday school/small group leaders
- Greeters and other traditional positions
- Sanitation and cleaning
- Hallway monitors and additional security
- Additional in-room volunteers: managing doorways, bathroom, etc.
- Check-in/out: managing stations, having a walk-flow, temperature checking (you’ll want to check with your legal sources on this one)
- Someone to keep the roster and be contacted for notification purposes (in case someone gets sick, etc.)

### *In-Person, at Home, Volunteers*

- Dropping off supplies
- Leaving encouragement on doorsteps
- Small group leaders or facilitators for at-home



## Virtual Volunteers

- Volunteers who touch base with families and children in your ministry
- Those who lead virtual groups or classes
- Tech know-hows who can train others or help run virtual services
- Training classes
- Digital games and activity creators for online interaction and engagement
- Those who are innovating behind-the-scenes
- Prayer partners

What volunteer positions will you need during these phases?

How will you communicate to those volunteers?

Remember the policies and procedures you've worked on in this time. How will you communicate those to your congregation as you prepare to open? What messages will you send leading up to your physical reopening?

What things are you doing now that will continue into the future?

Don't be discouraged if you have to rework your plan a few times. It will take us some time to get it right. Remember that just because we can physically reopen, doesn't mean we are ready. It's important to get it right—even if it means having to shift.

*Don't be discouraged if you have to rework your plan a few times.*



# RE-ENTER: Walking into the Future

*Walk into the future. And remember—this roadmap is a guideline for you as you plan and pivot moving forward. You can always go back to Reimagine and build a new path from there!*

As you build your plan and walk it out, remember there are tools out there to help you—and people too. See how your curriculum provider is adapting the tools you already use as you prepare for this new normal.

We encourage you to take your work done throughout this roadmap and share with your leadership as you plan for the ongoing re-entry phases. Use the checklist and these prompts as often as you need!

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We also have a series of free webinars around re-entry taking place throughout the summer. Join us for those!  
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There are also many sites, resources, and articles out there for you to use. On [Ministry Spark](#), fueled by [David C Cook](#), we've been leaning into researchers, experts, and ministry leaders like you for articles, webinars, and free resources. Use what works for you and drop what doesn't.

*There has never been a better time to change-up what you're doing.*

We are all in this together. We've struggled, we've rested, we've shifted, and now we are working to move forward. There's been spiritual and financial struggles in this time. And those could continue. But as we walk into this new normal, God is with us.

## Moving Forward

As you know and can see, there are many details and best practices to think through. And remember, nothing we mention is *how* you should do it, but it is meant to give you a place to start in thinking about your church and what physically opening up might look like.

There are a lot of questions to answer—yes. And this is not an exhaustive list, not even close. But once we answer these questions and create our best practices, it will help us make a smooth transition to this new normal—this new country—this new temple that we are walking into.

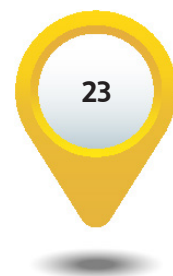
And although we are struggling, we know that God is in control and [He is faithful](#).

We are with you,

*The David C Cook Team*

# RE-ENTRY CHECKLIST

- Make a list of what worked and didn't work pre-COVID.
- Write down your mission statement and core values, make sure your ministry is focusing around that vision in order to re-center your ministry.
- Think through what worked and didn't work during COVID.
  - What did you start that you want to continue?
  - What works for both a physical and digital setting?
- Figure out what lane most of your attendees are in and break it down by ministry.
  - Walk through the Fast, Medium, Slow(er), Shoulder Lanes.
    - What will the different ministries within your church look like?
    - What phases will you open the different ministries?
    - What will your worship services look like?
    - How does this impact those who serve and attend?
- Decide what you have learned from your current challenges.
  - What opportunities are there?
  - How are you creating community?
- Dream of some ways that you see ministry as we move toward re-entry.
  - Check the national and CDC guidelines.
  - Check local guidelines.
  - Review handbook.
  - Review wellness policy.
  - Create procedures per COVID-19 guidelines.
  - Decide what volunteer positions you will need.
  - Create the communication to your congregation.
  - Communicate.
  - Communicate.
  - Communicate again.
- Make a list of how you are innovating.
  - Check your context, change, culture, competency, and capital.
  - Think through ways to use your current curriculum. This is considered part of your capital. And remember—check with your curriculum provider for help with the “how to” in this time!
  - Decide what you need in order to better innovate.
  - Make shifts where needed.
- Utilize the resources, articles, and webinars available from [Ministry Spark](#), [95Network](#), [INCM](#), and other thought leaders during this time.
- Plan, Pivot & Repeat!







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Thank You!