



**tips for youth workers**

**SEPTEMBER 2021**

## **PURSuing THE NEW**

September is here, and this September looks to be an exciting one! As provinces and regions across the country continue to lift COVID-19 restrictions and people get vaccinated, things we have been missing for more than 16 months are starting to re-open. Things like schools, malls, movie theatres, amusement parks and even churches are starting to open their doors to more and more people. Youth leaders like us are excited that this September may mark the start of in-person worship, in-person Sunday school, kids' clubs, Ready to Serve, Red Cap and TASK programs to name a few.

Things are beginning to open, and we are hopeful the fall will bring a sense of normalcy. We long for normal after over a year of COVID-19, but what is normal? Is normal what we experienced before COVID-19; do we want to go back to what we always did? Is normal still changing can it even be defined? Or is there some new normal that we should be aspiring too? With so much still up in the air, the excitement we feel can be overshadowed by sense of feeling stuck, not knowing what to do, or how to get started. Arrow leadership in a recent blog post listed 5 things leaders should actively pursue in the midst of uncertainty.

- 1) **Find Focus** - Don't get focused on the wind and the waves of circumstances. Keep your eyes on Jesus—the pioneer and perfecter of faith (Hebrews 12:2-3).
- 2) **Give Thanks** - Every day identify three things for which you are thankful. Then aim for ten! Gratitude changes our perspective in powerful ways (1 Thessalonians 5:18).
- 3) **Pray Unceasingly** - Don't underestimate the impact of prayer—on you, on others and on the world. Pray people seek Jesus. Pray wisdom for government and public health leaders. Pray for scientists and healthcare workers. Pray for the most vulnerable and isolated. Pray for Jesus-centered leaders (1 Thessalonians 5:17).
- 4) **Love Lavishly** - On any day, we have little control of what's going on in the world. We do have control on how we respond, however. Jesus said, "As I have loved you, so you must love one another" (John 13:34). Love lavishly by washing your hands, social distancing, reaching out to the vulnerable and blessing others in practical ways.
- 5) **Spread Calm and Courage** - Choosing to trust Jesus allows us to be a calm and non-anxious presence in our anxious world. Whom could you give courage to today? Give them a call or write a note. Point them to the One who is your faithful guide, your provider and your protector (Joshua 1:9).

- [An Arrow resource developed by Dr. Steve A. Brown or Dr. Rick Franklin](#)

As you begin to feel unstuck and start to dream and innovate again, I challenge you to not just get busy, but rather start by listening. Listen to hear what people are saying and what their needs are. As you start to come up with ideas connect with others and allow other people's ideas to sharpen your ideas. Finally, and most importantly, experiment. Do not be afraid to fail! Be willing to try new things, COVID-19 has provided us with an opportunity, actually it's really a mandate to do new things.

As you assess what you are doing, what you could do and what you need to do, try using the [Equalizer tool](#) as a helpful guide. Also, check out the [@theReady framework](#) for resources offered by the CANBDA team!

Peace and Blessings,

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