

Family Bonding and Spirituality during the Coronavirus in Manassas, Virginia

Reony and Adalia Tonneyck

March 25, 2020



My husband is still working normal days at home. He always worked just a few days at the office. Both of my teaching jobs have been affected -- one is completely online for the rest of the semester and they even canceled graduation. I work with a lot of seniors and they are all heartbroken. The teachers here are recording lectures online and we're lucky to have a lot of resources, but we do have to reformat my class curriculum because a lot of the projects were hands-on. For my husband and me, it's been nice to see each other all day; it's a nice little bonus when we usually have crazy schedules and not much time with our two-year-old son.

There are no church services, so we're live streaming them and taking in more spiritual words. We are blessed that our jobs aren't at risk, and we're all healthy so that enables us to help other people. We have a young family group video chat just to say 'Hi' to each other and check in. Everyone was so excited to see each other's faces! Because it's such a stressful and strenuous time right now, human interaction and connection is important. We are listening to podcasts that are inspirational; we practice our prayer life with our son and he says 'Aju' at the end of it; and I am praying more. My dad and sister are in New York and both have compromised immune systems.

My mom is locked up in her nursing home and no one can visit her. But we are staying positive -- taking afternoon walks together and asking if there are any older members of the community that need help right now. I've donated blood and I'm sewing face masks to give to children's hospitals. I feel like I have the time now to focus on those things.