

## Community-Developed

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**Date:** COVID-19 Pandemic 2020

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## Keep Your Lure in the Water A Devotional During a Pandemic

I must admit that I don't know much about fishing, but over the years, I have gained some fishing tips while at the cottage with my brother-in-law:

- There are many different types of fishing – fly fishing, ice fishing, freshwater fishing, saltwater fishing, shore fishing, rock fishing, canoe fishing.
- The equipment for fishing includes a fishing rod with line and a tackle box filled with hooks, lures, bobbers, sinkers, swivels, cutters and a container of worms or other live bait.
- The equipment used needs to match the kind of fishing you are doing.
- Fishing takes a lot of patience and waiting for that big one to bite.
- You can enjoy the experience regardless of how many fish you catch.
- A nice big fire and supplies to fillet the fish for the shore lunch!

With respect to Covid-19, we must “keep our lure in the water” by continuing to practice physical distancing, hand washing, etc. We are a few weeks in and for many, this is getting boring and tiresome, but it is critical that we exercise patience and wait for the public health officials to give us the “all clear.” Remember to use the equipment and tools appropriate for the situation you are in but with this type of virus, it boils down to staying home, washing those hands and keeping them from your face!

In the meantime, if you are an essential worker on the front lines, you may have to reach deep into that tackle box for the tools you need to maintain energy, the ability to show kindness, compassion, and joy in the process.

If you are staying home, you may have to reach deep into that tackle box to find ways to occupy your time. Be creative...start making Christmas gifts, sort through photos, write some letters, start a new hobby, do some legacy work, etc. Connect on Zoom and socialize that way.

The bottom line is that we need to be patient, stick with the program and wait for the curve to flatten and the “all clear” to be called. Try to enjoy the journey and watch where and how God shows up, knowing that at the end, we will come together to celebrate with an amazing shore lunch and share all those big fish stories.

Psalm 40:1-3

I waited patiently for the Lord; he turned to me and heard my cry. He lifted me out of the slimy pit, out of the mud and mire; he set my feet on a rock and gave me a firm place to stand. He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear the Lord and put their trust in him.

Listen to Randy Travis' *Keep your Lure in the Water* accompanied by a beautiful video - <https://youtu.be/UqtnHPm6uBY>