



In our continued efforts to 'look on the bright side' and to watch God work and ministry continue during these crazy COVID times, consider several benefits of the Virtual Cruise we just hosted. First, I can guarantee that NO ONE got seasick! We also were able to offer this event for those over six months pregnant (usually not allowed on Royal Caribbean ships). Our guests were able to tailor the event in a way that works best for them. Some recreated the exotic, get-away feel by renting vacation locations by the beach to watch from while others stayed home and watched from their own couches after starting their kids on virtual school or putting them to bed. One of the most common comments we get after our traditional cruise is that there is just too much going on for folks to get to all the sessions and events. With a virtual cruise, we were able to do some broadcasts 'live' but also keep most of our video content accessible for the whole month of February. This gave folks much more opportunity to take advantage of each and every speaker! Finally, a traditional cruise would NEVER been able to visit this variety of ports in only four days—how fun!



But all those positives mean nothing if no one came, right? Well thankfully that was not the case! We ended up with over 950 couples registering from 49 states AND 12 countries. Our streaming service reported high engagement throughout the event with almost 6,000 video views watched for the full 100% (unusually high for this type of event). However, virtual 'attendance' means little without life change and spiritual impact. Read these post-event comments for a glimpse of that!

Riedy's Road to Florida



When we last sold a house (moving from MI to AR), it was a buyers market. Houses were on the market for months, showings happened now and then, and home values were dropping. Not so now—it is a hot sellers market! On the Little Rock side, this has been great! We were able to do one weekend of showings, get 4 offers, and boom-house sold for right around what we asked (expecting to close 4/9). On the Orlando side, though, it has been more of a challenge. The market is even hotter with houses selling in a day for well over asking. An in-person house hunting trip seemed impractical with our timeline so (like everything else in these crazy COVID times)- we've gone virtual, viewing houses via Zoom! We now have a contract on an Orlando house that Eric is flying out to see in person during inspection. More updates to come, but we are grateful!

Was above & beyond our expectations! The LLYMI Virtual Cruise was a wonderful experience growing closer to God and closer to each other. We laughed, we cried, as we soaked in godly teaching for our marriage and are looking forward to sharing the wisdom we gained to help other couples.

We locked ourselves in the house for 4 days, cranked the heat up to 80, and wore cruise clothes all week! This helped us set the tone for focusing on each other and reconnecting and refocusing on each other.

This was our first experience with LLYMI cruise. I am so very thankful that you did not just cancel this year. [Due] to some physical issues, I don't know that I could ever go on an actual cruise. You did a fantastic job creating this virtual experience!! God truly blessed our marriage through your perseverance in the face of a pandemic. Thank you, we appreciate you!!!



I was excited to do the virtual cruise and reconnect with God and my husband as one again. Like most of us during this pandemic we seemed to drift apart emotionally with each other. I felt this would help us get back on track with our marriage and bring us back to God as the root of it all. My husband however was not so enthusiastic about the virtual part of this before we started. Once we started the cruise sessions and excursions and participated in the events and classes, he opened up and canceled other things outside of this just to be home with me and be present with the event. We are now recommitted to growing both together and individually with God as our center. Thank you for your wonderful work on putting this all together for us!

So in the end, we are thankful for how God used this unusual circumstance BUT we are also excited about getting back to our traditional event. We expect to be serving on the upcoming cruise Feb 6-13 2022 and would LOVE to have you join us. See www.lovelikeyoumeanitcruise.com/ before March 22 for the best discounts!

In Him,

Tear & Prayer

Pray for the Riedy Family

Serving with

FAMILY LIFE
Help for today. Hope for tomorrow.

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Charissa & Jon Vandiver

Pray for smooth inspection, appraisal, & closing on both houses as well as our whole moving process
Pray for our girls as they look for jobs & friends in a new area while navigating goodbyes in Arkansas
Pray for the many staff still looking for FL homes
Pray for Cru as they begin laying out a plan to slowly reopen the headquarters building safely
Praise that we are able to hold a few reduced size in-person Weekend to Remember® events
Praise for continued virtual & remote ministry like the new *Countdown to the Cross: A Lent Activity Paper Chain* free to families at www.familylife.com
Praise for a sweet surprise visit from Jon, Charissa, and Ruby to say goodbye to our AR house