What Have We Learned From This Crisis?

The men’s group, led by Ramon, just finished up their last Bible study for the year earlier this morning. Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, they had to “meet” remotely for most of their gatherings. Ramon recognizes that this unforeseen crisis has created a unique setting for the men to apply scriptures both to the current situation but also as a foundation for handling future ordeals.

The group had just finished up a study of Hebrews. Thinking about this book as he walked home from work later in the day, Ramon reflected on Hebrews 10: 24-25:

“And let us consider how we may spur one another toward love and good deeds, not giving up on meeting together, as some have the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

What most impressed Ramon in this scripture were the phrases “spur one another toward love and good deeds” and “encourage one another.” What better time to focus on these goals?

Ramon’s initial concern was how best to study the relevant Bible insight. Impressed with the men’s Bible discussions during the year, he decided he would first identify the main issues the men are facing and then have them agree on the most meaningful scriptures.

Ramon informally talked with several of the men to get a feel of what has affected their lives during this crisis. He found the following themes to dominate the men’s thinking:

- Loss of purposeful work when social interaction is either altered or non-existent
- Nowhere to hide from marital conflict (cannot just get lost in work)
- No outlet for social interaction (ie. clubs, sports, nights out with the guys, etc)
- Loss of leisure pass times such as watching sports or traveling
- No in-person fellowship
This list is obviously not inclusive of all concerns within the men’s group. However, Ramon decided to concentrate on these to be sure that the limited discussion time that group has would be focused on identifying relevant scriptural insight.

The diversity of the men in the group will create a wonderful backdrop for the final discussion. The group consists of 45 regularly attending men. Ages of the men spanned from the early twenties to a considerable group who are retired. Among those working, their occupations included small business owners, employees in both the private and government sectors, and several independent contractors. He was also aware that family and emotional issues were affecting several of the group members.

After reflecting on the options, Ramon decided on the following approach for organizing the men’s discussion.

Step 1 – Have each man submit up to three Biblical passages he feels are most relevant for encouraging the group in coping with the issues listed above in the current crisis and preparing for future trauma.

Step 2 – Ramon sends out the list with the challenge for each man – with only this set of scripture, what should be remembered to prepare for any future crises?

Step 3 – Group meets to decide on common Biblical principles.
ASSIGNMENT
This case focuses on a group effort. Assume the role of Ramon along with the group makeup and Pandemic related concerns listed above. Follow the three steps.

My Scriptural Research:

Group Scriptural Research:

Decisions / Recommendations:

Primary Scriptural References: