

**March 29, 2020 | Your Response Is Your Story**  
**Group Discussion Questions**

**GROUP PREP**

In preparation for group, [watch Emmanuel's weekend service message](#), then answer the following discussion questions.

**INTRODUCTION**

In some way, everyone has been affected by COVID-19. Not only is no one immune, but it's also affecting our neighborhoods, schools, churches, workforces, health care systems, and economic state. For many, this is a monumental trial and could be the greatest they will ever face. How should we respond to this crisis?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. How has the COVID-19 outbreak affected you, your family, and/or others you know personally?

2. Read [James 1:2-4](#). What is your natural reaction to trials?

How do trials test our faith and create endurance?

In what ways have the hurdles you've experienced due to the coronavirus helped or hurt your growth in Christ?

3. Although there are many responses we could have to the current, all-encompassing trial, below are four that Emmanuel attendees are encouraged to strive for.

- **Don't give in to fear.** Read [Isaiah 41:10](#). For you, how have current circumstances produced fear? What can we do to overcome a spirit of fear?
- **Do your part.** Read [Romans 13:1-2](#). Are there things that government officials have asked of us that you are in respectful disagreement with? If so, what? Why is it important for followers of Christ to support their governing officials if they are not asking us to "stop doing the good we know we should?" (ref: [James 4:17](#))
- **Think of others.** Read [Philippians 2:3-4](#). Dr. Robert Mullholland said, "Spiritual growth is the process of being conformed to the image of Christ for the sake of others." What needs have you noticed, and in what ways are you attempting to meet them? What's one thing you can do this week to meet a need?
- **Maximize the time.** Read [Ecclesiastes 3:1](#). In what way(s) could you use this time as a gift from God?

### **ACTION STEP**

4. Read [James 1:12](#). The response we have to our current trial will be the story we tell others one day. What story do you hope to tell?

### **Recommended Action Steps**

1. **Memorize Scripture on fear.** [Isaiah 41:10](#), [Psalm 23:4](#), or [Matthew 8:26-27](#).
2. **Practice the spiritual discipline of servanthood.** Determine a need and meet it. Many are in need right now.
3. **Maximize the time.** Do something constructive with the time God has given you. Read a book, practice an instrument, spend time with your kids, learn a language, connect with God, get in shape, work on your marriage, etc.

### **OUTREACH: GROUPS IN ACTION**

To determine how your group can serve together in our community, email Breanne Schafer at [bschafer@eclife.org](mailto:bschafer@eclife.org).

### **FILL IN THE BLANKS BELOW FOR THIS UPCOMING WEEK'S ACTION STEPS.**

My action step is \_\_\_\_\_.

This coming week, I will encourage \_\_\_\_\_ to complete their action step.

Their action step is \_\_\_\_\_.

My memory verse is \_\_\_\_\_.

This coming week, I will pray for the group's following prayer requests:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____