

VIRTUAL CONNECT GROUP GUIDE

May 3, 2020



CONNECT

In his message, Hans references the Marvel Avenger movies. If you've watched these movies, which one is your favorite? If you're not a Marvel fan, which pop culture superhero is your favorite and why?

GROW

- When the realities of COVID-19 initially hit the United States, what ways did you see people acting as **superheros** within your community? Have you noticed that changing at all now that we are several months in?
- Hans referenced a post circulating around Facebook that describes this time as all of us living in the **same storm**, but in a **different boat** (see pg. 2). Read this and discuss it within your group. What are your thoughts about this image?
- When the Apostle Paul wrote his letter to the Corinthians, he didn't write chapter 13 for **weddings** as we commonly hear it today (*If you are married, how many of you had these verses read?*) In fact, he wrote it to a community that was filled with **diversity and conflict**. How would you read it differently in that light? **Read: 1 Cor. 13**
- Paul's church was set apart not because they loved the people who were *only* in their boat, but because they loved those who were *not* in their boat. How have you been loved by someone unexpectedly? Have you experienced **unexpected love** from God? What does it mean to love our neighbors as we battle this particular storm?

PRAY

God, we have faith and hope from you, but your greatest gift is love. In these uncertain times, help us to look to our neighbors and show them abounding and unexpected love, just as you do for us. Amen.

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May 3, 2020 (cont.)



WE ARE NOT IN THE SAME BOAT

Author Unknown

I heard that we are all in the same boat, but it's not like that. We are in the same storm, but not in the same boat. Your ship could be shipwrecked and mine might not be. Or vice versa.

For some, quarantine is optimal. A moment of reflection, of re-connection, easy in flip flops, with a cocktail or coffee. For others, this is a desperate financial & family crisis.

For some that live alone they're facing endless loneliness. While for others it is peace, rest & time with their mother, father, sons & daughters.

With the \$600 weekly increase in unemployment some are bringing in more money to their households than they were working. Others are working more hours for less money due to pay cuts or loss in sales.

Some families of 4 just received \$3400 from the stimulus while other families of 4 saw \$0.

Some were concerned about getting a certain candy for Easter while others were concerned if there would be enough bread, milk and eggs for the weekend.

Some want to go back to work because they don't qualify for unemployment and are running out of money. Others want to kill those who break the quarantine.

Some are home spending 2-3 hours/day helping their child with online schooling while others are spending 2-3 hours/day to educate their children on top of a 10-12 hour workday.

Some have experienced the near death of the virus, some have already lost someone from it and some are not sure if their loved ones are going to make it. Others don't believe this is a big deal.

Some have faith in God and expect miracles during this 2020. Others say the worst is yet to come.

So, friends, we are not in the same boat. We are going through a time when our perceptions and needs are completely different.

Each of us will emerge, in our own way, from this storm. It is very important to see beyond what is seen at first glance. Not just looking, actually seeing.

We are all on different ships during this storm experiencing a very different journey.