

Believer PREPARED (Aug. 3rd & Sep. 7th)

SESSION I:

A) Introduction: (In Scout Uniform)

As some of you know, I'm an Adult Leader, with Boy Scouts. Do we have any Eagle Scouts in the room? Today, I'm starting a 2 part discussion on a Christ-follower's version of the Boy Scout motto. Anyone know the motto? Our version is BELIEVER PREPARED

Goal for this discussion is to increase awareness and a call to action for Cornerstone Fellowship men of God to:

- 1) Prepare yourselves/family
- 2) Prepare each other/our church
- 3) Prepare our community

... Be prepared, not only for our physical needs, but spiritual needs of others...to serve God in times of crisis

Boy Scout Motto: "Be Prepared" – 3 components: LIST BELOW, THEN DESCRIBE

- 1) **Physically** = 2 Aspects... physical fitness This is a challenge for many of us. What kind of shape are you in? Do you have health challenges you are faced with? Do you have medications that you need to have stocked up? emergency preps... emergency plans/kits for car, work and home. How long could you survive without assistance? How long would your emergency kit last in a disaster, like a Katrina or Haiti earthquake?
- 2) **Mentally** = What's your attitude toward life? Is your glass half-full or half-empty? How confident are you that you could do okay in a crisis? How will you react? What skills do you have, or could you learn to be better prepared in emergency?
- 3) **Morally** (Spiritually) = If you're in spiritual alignment with God, your good morals will follow. How strong is your faith? Will it be shaken during a crisis, or strengthened? Reminder that even Paul, and all the apostles battled with temptations, and wrongdoing. We're all a work in progress.

By the way, BSA has been in the press in recent months. If any of you'd like to discuss the controversy with me, I'd be happy to do that with you offline.

How many of you feel prepared for crisis in all three areas? Next month, I'll spend more time on the physical & mental aspects of being prepared, for for today, we're going to talk more about the spiritual aspects.

B) AUDIENCE/TABLE DISCUSSION...

What are we up against – types of crisis?

What is the worst case scenario that you need to prepare for?

Why should/shouldn't a Christian be prepared for emergencies? **1Tim 5:8; PRV 6:6-11& 27:12**

Is it a lack of faith if we prepare (physically) for tough times? REF Ebook

IN SESSION 2: What are the needs in times of crisis?

What will the needs be of others around us in crisis?

How can we be prepared for our physical and spiritual needs?

What is the right attitude (mental) we believers should have in being prepared?

GROUP DISCUSSION Types of disasters = opportunities for furthering of Christ's Kingdom (INVITE INPUT FROM ATTENDEES):

- 1) Natural (usually localized, but could be much larger scale):
 - earthquake/volcano
 - wildfire
 - drought

- flood/tsunami
- pandemic (potentially man-made/induced)

2) Man-made threats (may/may not be small in scale but could have global impact):

- terrorist (many scenarios could play out)
- war (even mideast regional war will have domestic impacts)
- pipeline breaks, power outages, chemical release
- economic (e.g. pre-WWII Germany - ref. "When a Nation Forgets God")
- social unrest (could result from any of the above)

3) Individual Crisis

- Job loss
- Relational loss
- Health change
- Suffering for your faith in Jesus Christ

Simply put, a disaster can be defined as anything that disrupts our life - removal of our support structure and dependencies for some amount of time. Anyone take the time to complete the Assessment that Steve sent out a few days ago?

Reference Spiritual Assessment, adding Bonus Statement & Scripture Ref:

15) I am mentally and spiritually prepared to suffer for my faith in Jesus Christ. REF: Matt 10:22

We don't always feel up to the task. God often uses seemingly ordinary people to complete His extraordinary plans.

show "The Hobbit" movie clip at 1:41:36 – 1:42:58

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 2 Cor 1:3,4

C) Read Paul's journey to Rome in Acts 27 - A group of prisoners, escorted by Roman soldiers, bound for Rome. Key points of the story:

1) **Physical:** The ship was prepared with supplies for 275+ people (community) to survive the journey, at least to the next port. Facing many challenges (storms of life), they had to lighten their load, losing much of their supplies.

LESSON FOR US: We need each other, and should have a close group of trusted friends. While it's good to be ready, don't rely too heavily on your prep supplies - have them, but know that they may become of no use to you.

2) **Mental:** Paul traveled with others **v.2** (at least 2 others - Luke and Aristarchus - small/support group), and befriended the Roman Centurion. While Paul appeared to have doubts at some points in the journey (**READ v.10**), he ultimately had a greater purpose for his life. He knew he was doing the Lord's will. Ultimately, he had no fear.

3) **Spiritual:** God was/is in control. Paul was bold in his faith. **READ Key verse (v 21-25): Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me.** We are under His protection (e.g. **v. 42-43**).

FINAL POINT: We as believers have a distinct advantage over non-believing preppers who live in fear of the future. Or at best, they live in controlled fear through all their preparations for the uncertain future. We have faith that eternal life in heaven awaits us. "We are immortal, until God's purpose for our earthly life is completed." **PRAY.**

SESSION II:

Quick review of Session 1.

KEY VERSE: He who finds his life will lose it, and he who loses his life for My sake will find it. Matt 10:39

show "The Hobbit" movie clip at [Bilbo talks to the Dwarves about how he realized he needed to help them find their home]

A) Basic needs of physical/spiritual survival:

1) Shelter- DEATH IS POSSIBLE WITHIN MINUTES WITHOUT PROPER SHELTER
Jesus - the house built upon the rock [Matt 7:24-27 -- Lk 6:47-49]

2) Water – DEATH IS POSSIBLE WITHIN DAYS WITHOUT WATER
Jesus - the living water [John 4:10-11; John 7:38]

3) Food - DEATH IS POSSIBLE WITHIN WEEKS WITHOUT FOOD
Jesus - the bread of life [John 6:48 & 51]

ETERNAL DEATH IS PROMISED WITHOUT THE HOUSE BUILT ON ROCK, THE LIVING WATER, AND THE BREAD OF LIFE

B) Typical emotions experienced during/after crisis (from US Army Survival Manual):

- share resource scriptures/handouts:

1) Fear - death, injury or illness. (Physical / imminent danger)

2) Anxiety - (undisclosed danger)

3) Depression – hopelessness

4) Loneliness/Boredom -

5) Guilt (why did I live, and not others?)

C) Call to Action:

1) Prepare yourself Be(liever) Prepared - How can you help others, if you're not ready yourself?

a) Physically – mention resource

- make personal/vehicle/family emergency kits/plans
- network with other believers to coordinate plans
- get healthy (take care of your temple)

b) Mentally - Christian Preppers approach/attitude (as citizens of Heaven – fear vs. faith)

- list useful skills/strengths you already have
- gain knowledge/skills to become more self-reliant

c) Morally/Spiritually

- take the "Spiritual & Emotional Survival Skills Assessment
- Assess your devotional time (1)
- prayer/devotional study/scripture memorization
- Where do you find true joy & peace? (2)
- How confident are you in sharing your faith? (3)
- How do you respond to daily crisis? (4)

2) Prepared Church - Become a "Band of Brothers" prepared to help others

They will know us by our love for each other

Life groups - Network together with fellow men/believers

3) Prepared Community

Community Outreach Ministries? Where you work?

How can we be prepared to serve our community?

- First Aid Classes
- Neighborhood Block Captain (see handout)
- CERT Training (see handout)
- Online FEMA Classes
- Lay Counseling Class

Show CEN Video clip

Resources pages/brochures