



Hey, everyone! It's so good to see you! All of us in the student ministry miss you, and we love you! We look forward to the day we can all gather together again.

I want hear from you. What are you most looking forward to as things open back up? Drop a comment in the chat box and let me know what you think.

[**Author Note:** Interact with students.]

Those things are awesome. I can't wait, either.

I want to begin today with a question, what will be different after this crisis?

No, I'm not necessarily talking just about how will the NFL football season will work or what school might look like in the fall.

In what ways will your life be different after this crisis? How has this time changed you?

For some of you, words can't express the pain you carry, because you lost someone close to you because of COVID-19. Others missed the birth of a sibling or cousin, or maybe a funeral of a loved one, because of the shutdown.

Some of you have been impacted in other ways, like a parent losing a job and the financial uncertainty that the loss of a job brings.

Yet, there are others who fortunately haven't had to face something so serious. You've actually enjoyed the extra time at the house and less schoolwork.

I want all of us to think about what God may be teaching us *through* this. I think there are some "convictions" that God wants to impress on our hearts and lives moving forward.

I know the word "conviction" isn't a word we use all of the time, so let me remind you that a **conviction** is a firmly held belief or opinion. It's

something you absolutely believe is true. It's something you're convinced is true, and this belief informs and impacts the decisions you make.

[Author Note: I used several convictions or things that students in my group believe (like which sports team is superior). You can substitute your own group's convictions and preferences.]

Take for example, some of you have the conviction that LeBron James is the greatest basketball of all time. You're convinced he's the G.O.A.T., and because of that belief, you think less of every other player. If that's you, go watch "The Last Dance" on ESPN2. Michael Jordan is the G.O.A.T.!

- Some of you have the conviction that the Tiger King is totally innocent, and others of you are convinced he's the worst. What you believe about the Tiger King determines how to speak about him.
- Some may be convinced that your sports team is superior to your rival, so that informs what team you watch. I'm convinced that the University of South Carolina is superior than Clemson.
- Let me hear from you. What's a conviction you have? Drop it in the chat!

[Author Note: Interact with students.]

Now, I want to ask more serious questions. What convictions does God want you to have? What could God be teaching you throughout this whole crazy season of quarantine and reentry? I want you to think about these questions as we talk today.

We are all waiting and hoping to get back to school in the fall. We can't wait to get back to work, sit in a restaurant, and give somebody a hug. We're waiting for some positive news. We're waiting for things to trend in the right direction. We're waiting to hang out with our friends again.

In your waiting, let me encourage you with this one idea, and it's our thought for the week:

Don't waste this crisis by not learning what God wants to teach you. Make the most of it by learning what He has for you.



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