

News Story Summary

A recent poll conducted by the Pew Research Center revealed that 90 percent of Americans say their lives have been impacted by COVID-19. Of those polled 44 percent said their lives have changed in major ways because of the pandemic. Only 12 percent reported their lives have not changed. Many indicated they would not feel comfortable attending a party (91%), eating in a restaurant (77%), getting out to vote (66%), going to a grocery store (42%), or visiting a relative or friend (38%).

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the term “Impact of Coronavirus on Americans”.)

Focus Attention

To replace the Guide idea under Focus Attention, share with the group ways the COVID-19 guidelines have affected your daily life whether it’s working from home, homeschooling your children, or just finding ways to entertain yourself. Invite volunteers to share as well. After most have gathered, share a summary of the findings of the Pew Research Center Survey. (Option: allow them to guess the percentages relative to each action.)

Say: It’s hard to believe that something we can’t even see with the naked eye can wreak this much havoc in just a few weeks. Comment about the impact so something so small (an unseen virus) is having on our life. Then, encourage them to think about how little issues within the church can wreak havoc with the unity of the believers, keeping us apart just like COVID-19 has done in the larger community. Ask: How might a breakdown in one area create a problem in a different area within a local body of believers? Complete the step, beginning with the Transition idea suggested.

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement the Display idea under Summarize and Challenge, begin by reminding the group of the Pew Research Center poll. Lead the group to consider how a person’s trust might impact how they responded to the survey. Highlight the connection between trust and faith. Transition to Pack Item 5 or a listing of key words in Romans. Call attention to the importance of the word *faith* in Romans, completing the step as written.