

News Story Summary

During the pandemic, various levels of compliance have been observed. Some people ignore calls to wear masks when in grocery stores or other retail locations while others were masks even when driving alone in their car. Some churches have continued to meet even if in their parking lot, while most have moved to online groups and worship services. A variety of reasons exists including economics, changing or inconsistent guidelines, and first amendment rights to name a few.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the term “do people abide by covid guidelines”.)

Focus Attention

To replace the Consider idea under Focus Attention, lead the group to recall COVID guidelines being followed in your area. Note that different states and regions may have different guidelines including reopening plans. Ask the group to think about these questions: *When you see someone disregarding current guidelines, what thoughts might you have? How does a person’s response to the guidelines help or hurt the cause of Christ?*

Say: In today’s lesson, Paul gives us some guidelines for our responsibilities to and relationship with governing authorities with the goal of representing Christ well to the world.

Summarize and Challenge

To supplement the Reflect idea under Summarize and Challenge, after calling attention to the subtitle for today’s study, remind the group of the various levels of compliance or disregard for COVID guidelines. Review the bulleted statements under In My Context or Apply the Text, leading the group to suggest practical ways of applying each bullet point to the current situation. Challenge them to look for ways of bringing honor to Christ in all actions.

Complete the step as written, beginning with the Respond suggestion.