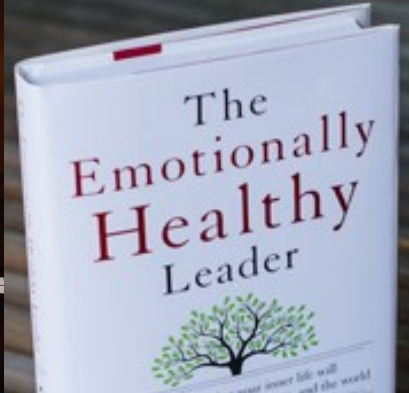




INSTITUTE OF
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 BIBLICAL STUDIES



*Left: New summer assignment —helping to run Cru’s Institute of Biblical studies.
 Middle: One of many Zoom calls! This was training for leading an ALA team.
 Right: Highly recommended book as part of the sharpening of the saw that we’ve been doing.*

Sharpen the Saw

The coronavirus has changed a lot in the past few months for all of us. Here in San Antonio (like the rest of the world!) college campuses shut down, dorms closed, and students took their classes online. This made “ministry as usual” pretty much impossible.

Before the shut down we had a prayer chain going and we could tell God was opening doors on campus. I got to meet with the UTSA men’s basketball team the day before the school closed. This was amazing because of the openness of the players and staff (and very disappointing because of how it affected follow up with the players.) I see the openness to spiritual things on campus as a direct result to the prayer chain that many of you were a part of to start the semester! Thanks for doing that! I’m going to start another prayer chain very soon so please let me know if you would like to join in this time around!

Ministry took two forms—online and internal. Online we had a lot of zoom meetings and we even had our summer assignment changed to helping run Cru’s summer Biblical courses. These are all virtual for the first time ever. I’m currently running the “Christian Worldview and Ethics” course where we talk about issues such as technology, racism, sexuality, politics, abortion, etc. Let’s say that this class has been very interesting and timely!

Internally we’ve had the opportunity to “Sharpen the Saw” as Stephen Covey puts it in his book *The 7 Habits*. Due to not having in person meetings we’ve taken the time to take some courses and read some books that we just haven’t had the time to do in the normal flow of ministry. Two big things were 1) a course on how to minister in today’s culture related to sexuality and 2) A course designed to help develop Christian spiritual disciplines for discipleship and maturity. I believe that God will use both of these to make us more effective ministers of the Gospel.

- Prayer and next steps:**
- 1) We’d like to pray for you. Would you take moment to send us a note (Digital or physical is fine!) with an update on you and any prayer requests you’d be willing to share? **Thanks for being a part of what we do!**
 - 2) Would you want to join in our next daily/weekly/monthly prayer chain as we begin this next semester? Let me know!
 - 3) We have a young man who is very close to giving his life to the Lord. We’ve had a lot of spiritual conversations with him and have shared the gospel with him a number of times. We think he is very close to a decision. Would you pray for him? Pray that he would have a clear understanding of what it means to be a Jesus follower.
 - 4) Would you pray that the campus would be able to safely open up and that we’d get back in person with students?
 - 5) Finally, I wanted to send out a list of my favorite resources from this time but I ran out of room! Email me and I’ll send!