

**Study Questions for “Mutual Aid in the Bible and Early Church”
by Frank Ramirez**

1. Recall instances when your congregation came to the aid of its members in an emergency. Why does this kind of aid come from the church more often than the community?
2. Ramirez says, “Mutual Aid is never having things work out evenly.” How is mutual aid different from insurance? Does insurance work out evenly?
3. Most families these days have life insurance, but historically the Brethren resisted buying life insurance because they thought that by doing so they would be avoiding God’s will for their lives. Where do you draw the line between taking life as it comes (or as God gives it) and the prudence of preparing for personal disasters?
4. Would God think that insurance was offensive or smart? Why?
5. Property and life insurance is one thing. What, if any, is the church’s responsibility for the many people in our congregations living without health insurance?
6. Does life insurance mean that people have a financial value like property? What were some of the arguments for and against life insurance?