

# RIVERS CROSSING COMMUNITY CHURCH



## Community Group Discussion Guide

*The Keys of Death and The Grave (Easter)* / April 12, 2020 / Pastor Paul Taylor

### COMMUNITY GROUP NOTES

#### ⇒ HOSTING GROUPS ONLINE / COVID-19 PLANS

*During this season where we cannot meet in person as a church family, we're encouraging people to connect and meet online. We've put together a resource guide for hosting online groups. That guide walks through available technology platforms and provides best practices for having a successful online gathering. You can access that resource guide by clicking on the link below. If you have questions about moving your group online, or would like to start a new online group, please reach out to Matt Jewell, the Director of Groups, at [mjewell@riverscrossing.com](mailto:mjewell@riverscrossing.com).*

*Resource Guide:* [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ULlip8MJISxx62T1Hbc9LbR-JAV\\_8bm/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ULlip8MJISxx62T1Hbc9LbR-JAV_8bm/view?usp=sharing)

#### ⇒ HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST OR CARE NEED?

*As a church, we're here for you and we are praying for you. If you have a prayer request or care need, you can submit both of those via the Rivers Crossing website (see the link below) or our church app.*

*Rivers Crossing Care Team:* <https://riverscrossing.com/care-team/>

### COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Icebreaker Questions: This past weekend we experienced one of the most memorable Easters any of us will ever remember. What was Easter like in your household growing up? Has it changed over the years? Did you do anything to make Easter special this year?
2. For many, the COVID-19 outbreak has brought difficulties and challenges to our everyday lives. And for some, this outbreak has brought a season of deep loss and grieving. Discuss the following questions.
  - a) C.S. Lewis wrote in *Mere Christianity*, "Comfort is the one thing you cannot get by looking for it. If you look for truth, you may find comfort in the end. If you look for comfort, you will not get either comfort or truth — only soft soap and wishful thinking to begin with and, in the end, despair."  
Do you agree with this assessment from C.S. Lewis? Explain your answer.
  - b) Read Psalm 40 together. What truths does David lay hold of during his time of pressing trouble? Which of these truths do you need to lay hold of during this season of your life?
  - c) Inspired by the Holy Spirit, David's writing in Psalm 40 is not merely a personal reflection, but also a messianic prophecy fulfilled in Jesus. Read Psalm 40:6-9, and then read Hebrews 10:4-14. How does seeing this connection impact that way you view this Psalm? How does the ultimate truth of Jesus' death and resurrection comfort you during the COVID-19 outbreak?
3. While Easter Sunday is a glorious day, the preceding few days were anything but for the first followers of Jesus. Jesus went from being hailed as messiah and king on Palm Sunday, to being crucified on Friday. But as we now know, Jesus resurrected and is alive! The story of God's plan for the salvation of mankind is the most profound example of how God is sovereign over even the darkest of circumstances and how God promises to work all things together for good for those who love Him.  
If you're willing, share about a difficult season or circumstance that God ultimately used for your good.
4. Read 1 Corinthians 15 together and then discuss the corresponding questions.
  - a) The Apostle Paul says that if Jesus was not raised from the dead, "then your faith is useless and you are still guilty of your sins" (New Living Translation). Why is the resurrection of Jesus Christ so critical to the Christian faith?

- b) The Apostle Paul explains to the church in Corinth that there is a direct connection between the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the future resurrection of believers in the final day. Is this a connection you were aware of? If so, how often do you reflect on it? If not, how does this help you better understand what it means to have eternal life?
- c) The Apostle Paul concludes his writing on the resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15 by issuing a call to action – “be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless” (New Living Translation).

Reflect for a few minutes on where God may be calling you to live differently and work enthusiastically on His behalf in response to the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Share what God puts on your heart during this time of reflection. How can your group support you?

### *COMMUNITY GROUP PRAYER TIME*

Prayer Exercise: Read Titus 2:11-14 and Titus 3:3-8 together. These passages are beautiful descriptions of the life-changing and eternal hope each of us are provided if we believe and receive by faith the saving work of Jesus Christ. Spend time in prayer giving thanks to God for your salvation and for how He’s transformed your life. Pray for those who, on Easter Sunday, committed their lives to believing and following Jesus.

Additionally, you’re encouraged to share personal prayer requests and pray for one another.

Global Prayer Movement – #Unite714 / Find more information on Unite714 by clicking [HERE](#).