

RIVERS CROSSING COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Discussion Guide
June 11, 2017

Preach It – JD Pearring



community
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INTRO:

We shouldn't make it hard for people to turn to God but unfortunately too often that's not the experience people have. Think about when you began to turn to God – did the Church and other believers in your life make it easier or harder to move into a relationship with Jesus?

DIVE IN:

We're going to dive into the follow up to the biblical narrative that JD shared. Skim through Acts 15:1-21 to get context for the discussion, then dive into the following passage. Acts 15:22-35 is the recording of the decision from the early church sent to the Gentiles in response to them coming to Christ.

1. How have you experienced the Church (big C at large) make it difficult for people to turn to God? What hurdles are put up – perceived or actual?
2. JD gave a top 5 list of reasons people don't go to church and don't turn to God. What others would you add from your experience?
3. How do you personally hold to scriptural values, morals, etc... while still making it easy for people near you to turn to God? How do you communicate these beliefs without setting them up as hurdles for people to overcome to get to a relationship with God?
4. The apostles send a letter to the Gentiles set things straight. They say "hey, some guys have made it hard for you – that's not us (or God)!" vs 24. Have you ever had conversations with people turning to God to help reset the perspective of God and His Church?
5. Throughout the whole narrative the Holy Spirit is directing and leading (vs 8, 28). How can you personally follow the Spirit's lead to help make it easy for people to turn to God?
6. The letter still gave Gentiles some directives for "do's and don'ts" – if you were talking to someone who's turning to God, what would you tell them are the expectations?
7. The letter was shared with the Gentiles and there was joy (vs 31) – how have you seen in others (or experienced for yourself) the joy of freedom in Christ when the barriers are removed?
8. As barriers were removed with the sharing of the letter (vs 32-33), it opened up opportunities for

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the Spirit to move and speak to encourage believers. How has God opened up doors for ministry when you see barriers removed from people who are turning to God?

9. JD gave 4 assumptions about people turning to God...

- Assumption #1 – People want to turn to god
- Assumption #2 – We (the church) are making it difficult
- Assumption #3 – It's not difficult to turn to God
- Assumption #4 – We can make a difference

What can you do to live out your faith in a way that we can overcome the negative assumptions people have about the church, and look past the negative assumptions we may have about non-believers who are turning to God?

10. Think about your 8to15. What are you doing to make it easy for them to turn to God?

NOW WHAT:

1. What part of this week's message has had the greatest impact on you? What truth(s) has God taught you through the message and our group discussion?
2. What do you need to do with that truth this week to become a fully engaged follower of Jesus?