

# RIVERS CROSSING COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Discussion Guide  
May 7, 2017



## Playback – Weeks #3

### INTRO:

1. What patterns do you see in your life that are so hard to break or start? Exercise, sleep, healthy eating? Notoriously late, constantly flaky, frequently sick? What patterns are you stuck in that you wish you could break?

### DIVE IN:

1. Pastor Paul explained that our reasons (neutral influences, occurrences, etc...) can develop into either “explanations that turn to progress” or “justifications that turn to excuses”. Which way do you usually respond to the challenges you face?
2. Why do you think it’s so hard to make progress instead of excuses?
3. Pastor Paul talked about the “excuses loop” that plays through our minds. What are some of the excuses that you find yourself holding on to to avoid change?
4. Think of a time when you’ve made a choice to move forward with progress instead of making excuses and stagnating. What was the impetus for you to decide to make progress?

### Read Luke 14:15-24 together and then answer these questions...

5. All the guests give excuses to not attend a party that seems like it would have been a great experience. Why does it seem like we make excuses to get out of things that we know should be good/fun/helpful/etc...?
6. Are the excuses worth missing out? Do we realize what we’re actually missing when we make excuses?
7. How does the master (representative of God in parables) respond when people make excuses to his invitation?
8. Who actually gets to enjoy the banquet? Why?
9. What good things do you believe God’s calling you participate in? Are you making excuses or are you making progress in what God wants for you or from you?

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10. The homework for the week was simply this – track your thoughts and then challenge them. How do you challenge the thoughts you have that can quickly turn to excuses?

## 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?