

# RIVERS CROSSING COMMUNITY CHURCH



## Community Group Discussion Guide – God, Are You Listening? Week #2

Waiting On The Lord / April 26, 2020 / Pastor Jeff Bloomfield

### 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)

#### ⇒ NEW GROUPS MINISTRY OFFERING – ONLINE GROUPS

*Designed for those who aren't already in a Community Group, Online Groups provide an environment for you to experience community and care, while also engaging with the Sunday sermon on a deeper level. Groups meet online (through [Zoom](#)) on either Mondays or Wednesdays at 7pm. By participating in an Online Group, you are NOT committing to joining a long-term group. We'd obviously love for you to keep coming back on a weekly basis, but we envision these Online Groups as open invitations for people to participate in and invite others to join along with you. You can register to participate using the link below.*

**Online Groups Registration:** <https://riverscrossing.wufoo.com/forms/m1hvymxb0ng8btj/>

#### ⇒ 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 Activity – Highs and Lows: Have each person in the group briefly share their best and worst moments from the previous week. If a group member needs additional time to talk through a low moment they're experiencing, be intentional to listen to and care for this person.
2. The virtue of patience is one that many people assume they either innately have or don't have. But the Bible teaches something different. For followers of Jesus, patience is produced in each of us by the work of the Holy Spirit and can be developed as we act in accordance with the Spirit (see Galatians 5:22,25).
  - a) Read James 4:14-15. Patience is a deliberate act of humility. How likely are you to experience feelings of anger, worry, or even despair when things go wrong or happen that are outside of your control? Why do you think that is? What might it look like for you to grow in humility?
  - b) Read Romans 5:3-5. Pastor Jeff taught that patience comes when we intentionally invest in our personal and spiritual growth. What a great encouragement since Rivers Crossing's word of the year is grow! How do you sense that God may be using this season to strengthen your endurance and character? What steps have you already taken or can you begin taking to grow in alignment with who God is calling you to be?
3. Much like the prophet Habakkuk, the Apostle Paul wrote about maintaining a proper perspective in the midst of suffering. Read Romans 8:18-25 together and discuss the corresponding questions.
  - a) It's important to examine the phrase "the glory he [God] will reveal to us later" (NLT), so that we can understand and apply the comparison being made by the Apostle Paul in verse 18. What two core

elements does the Apostle Paul have in mind when he talks about this future glory that all Christians will experience? *For a hint, see verse 21 and verse 23.*

- b) How can reflecting on the future redemption of creation (i.e. the new heaven and new earth described in Isaiah 65:17-15 and Revelation 21:1-22:5) and the receiving of our resurrected bodies (see 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) give us hope during times of affliction?
4. Pastor Jeff exhorted us that despite any or all of following – being weary, experiencing disappointment and difficulty, not understanding what’s going on, unanswered prayers, and even feeling that God is absent – we have to continue to obey God.
    - a) As you’ve navigated the COVID-19 outbreak, what have you stopped doing that you need to start back up again? How can your group members help you with this?
    - b) While temptation to sin is always present, that temptation can become stronger during times when we’re exhausted and spiritually dry. Have you experienced this in your life? What, if anything, do you need to confess both to God (1 John 1:9) and to your group members (James 5:16)? If you’re not comfortable sharing publicly, be intentional to connect with one person during your time in group who you can talk with during the week.
  5. How can you work to discern whether your relationship with God is centered around the things He can provide for you or if you truly love Him solely for who He is? Do you have a story of how God has used a difficult circumstance to reveal the underlying motivations of your heart toward God?

*“The critical question for our generation—and for every generation— is this: If you could have heaven, with no sickness, and with all the friends you ever had on earth, and all the food you ever liked, and all the leisure activities you ever enjoyed, and all the natural beauties you ever saw, all the physical pleasures you ever tasted, and no human conflict or any natural disasters, could you be satisfied with heaven, if Christ were not there?” – John Piper, God is the Gospel*

## COMMUNITY GROUP PRAYER TIME

The Book of Psalms has a lot to say about our response to suffering. In fact, over half of the 150 Psalms are classified as “lament” psalms because they express concern or sorrow over a difficult situation the author is facing. Each lament psalm has at least three similar elements – description of the present need or situation, a call for help and a commitment to praise God despite the circumstance. Read Psalm 86 and identify each of these elements. What else do you notice David included in this lament?

Because of this structure, these psalms provide a great model for us on how to pray when we’re suffering due to difficult circumstances. In light of what we’re all currently going through with COVID-19, jot down one or two thoughts about yourself or others under each of the elements.

- a) Description of a present need (How is this situation affecting you or others?)
- b) Call of help (What would you like God to do for you or others?)
- c) Commitment to praise (What is true about God that you can praise Him for?)
- d) Reflection on who God is (What aspects of God’s character are important to you during this season?)

Now use those thoughts to express your own lament prayer to God.

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