

RIVERS CROSSING COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Discussion Guide – Life In Technicolor Week #3

From The Pit To Prospering / September 26, 2021 / Pastor Paul Taylor



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Icebreaker Question | Growing up, what was your favorite job and your least favorite job? Explain why.
2. Icebreaker Question | If you could take a month off from your regular life to immerse yourself in learning something new, what would it be?

PLAN A FALL SOCIAL EVENT/GATHERING

⇒ Take time as a group to plan a social event during the Fall Quarter. This could take place during your regularly scheduled meeting time or in addition to your typical meetings.

Here are some suggestions: Enjoy a full meal together (whether at someone's home, a restaurant, or even a park), host a game night, hike together, gather around a fire pit, attend a local sporting event, or serve your community through organizations like Joshua's Place, Matthew 25, and City Gospel Mission.

Whatever you choose to do, the goal should be this – create an environment that's different from your typical group format and that helps you get to know one another better.

3. Read Colossians 3:23-24. What do you currently do as a profession and/or to support your family? If you're retired, explain how you structure and fill your schedule. How can your work ethic and attitude in what you do testify to others about your faith in Jesus?

Colossians 3:23-24 (NLT) – ²³Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. ²⁴Remember that the Lord will give you an inheritance as your reward, and that the Master you are serving is Christ.

DIVING DEEPER

4. Thinking back on this week's sermon, was there anything you heard for the first time or something that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?
5. The Bible is clear – salvation isn't something we earn from God, rather it's a gift we receive from God by faith (Ephesians 2:8-9; Romans 3:23-25). But as we learn from Joseph, our obedience to God is key to experiencing God's ongoing presence and confirms our identity in Christ. Read the following Bible passages together and discuss the corresponding questions.

John 14:15-17 (ESV) – ¹⁵If you love me, you will keep my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever, ¹⁷even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.

1 John 2:1-6 (NIV) – ¹My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ²He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. ³We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. ⁴Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. ⁵But if anyone obeys his word, love for God is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

1 John 4:13-17 (NIV) – ¹³This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. ¹⁵If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. ¹⁶And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. ¹⁷This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus.

John 15:12-15 (ESV) – ¹²“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends. ¹⁴You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you.

a) What stands out to you from these Scriptures about the importance and practice of obeying God?

b) How does experiencing and trusting God’s love for us increase our willingness to obey God? Do you have a personal example of how this connection has played out in your life?

6. As part of our salvation, God gives us a new heart that now desires to serve and honor Him. Pastor Paul shared that when we obey God, we experience God’s presence and his blessing. Share an area of your life where you’ve stepped into obeying God and He has helped you to prosper.

2 Corinthians 5:16-17 (NLT) – ¹⁶So we have stopped evaluating others from a human point of view. At one time we thought of Christ merely from a human point of view. How differently we know him now! ¹⁷This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!

TAKING IT HOME

7. A life in technicolor, or as we routinely call it at Rivers Crossing an extraordinary life, is one marked by diligent seeking after and obedience to God. Not perfection in living, but humble reliance upon God as we go throughout our day-to-day life. No matter how long you've been following Jesus, you can always continue to grow.

How could you more deeply seek after and obey God? Perhaps you need to adjust your schedule to prioritize spending time with God by reading the Bible, or you need to confess disobedience and ask for forgiveness, or you need to ask God for wisdom about a big decision. If you're willing, share about this with your group. How can the members of your group best support you?

1 Chronicles 16:10-11 (NLT) – ¹⁰Exult in his holy name; rejoice, you who worship the Lord. ¹¹Search for the Lord and for his strength; continually seek him.

Psalms 70:4 (NLT) – But may all who search for you be filled with joy and gladness in you. May those who love your salvation repeatedly shout, "God is great!"

Psalms 34:3-5 (NLT) – ³Come, let us tell of the Lord's greatness; let us exalt his name together. ⁴I prayed to the Lord, and he answered me. He freed me from all my fears. ⁵Those who look to him for help will be radiant with joy; no shadow of shame will darken their faces.

PRAYER REQUESTS

-
-
-

RIVERS CROSSING – THINGS TO KNOW

1. **2022 Discipleship School** | Discipleship School is a one-year program that helps Christians from all backgrounds become fully engaged followers of Christ. The school helps students learn to hear God's voice clearly, experience a full and free life, develop intimacy with God, develop Christlike living, and understand their spiritual gifting. For more information, or to apply for the Discipleship School, click on the link below. <https://riverscrossing.com/discipleship-school/>
2. **Plan A Visit** | Have an individual or family you want to invite to Rivers Crossing? If so, we'd love for them to utilize our Plan A Visit tool. Share this link with them: <https://connect-card.com/zTE3I3TXmFG0TgizStLj>.



COMMUNITY GROUP MISSION & VISION

Groups Mission:

To provide people an opportunity to experience loving community as they pursue becoming a fully engaged follower of Christ.

Community Groups Vision:

To gather together regularly to share, study the Bible, and support one another. Community Groups are sermon-based, meaning they study a set of Bible passages and questions connected to the previous weekend's sermon.

Healthy Community Groups:

Community Groups are designed so that we can love and care for one another and put God's Word into action – all in pursuit of experiencing and living the extraordinary life. As you lead, keep the following in mind for evaluating the health of your group:

- **ENGAGE:** Groups are only successful when people invest their time and energy to genuinely engage the process by attending regularly, being honest, and developing relationship with other group members. This takes time, but it's worth it.
 - *Acts 2:42-27, Colossians 3:12-17*
- **ENCOURAGE:** One of the primary roles your group will play is in encouraging one another forward in your individual walks with Christ. This includes supporting one another through the messiness and trials of life.
 - *Hebrews 10: 23-25*
- **EQUIP:** Regularly encountering God's Word through the sermon, group discussion, and personal study will, over time, equip each group member to be a more fully engaged follower of Jesus. As this information permeates the heart, the Holy Spirit will provide application and personal growth.
 - *2 Timothy 3:16-17; John 14:25-26*
- **EMPOWER:** As your group meets, you will see some people naturally begin to exhibit spiritual gifts including leadership, shepherding, and hospitality. Be on the lookout for these developments. Empower these individuals to step into larger roles within the group, to consider leading or hosting their own group, or to serve where led.
 - *Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 3:10-14*
- **EXPAND:** As each member of your group begins to invest in their "8 to 15," it's natural for your group to add new members and to connect others into groups ministry.
 - *John 13:34-35*