

# RIVERS CROSSING COMMUNITY CHURCH

## Community Group Discussion Guide – Trail Markers Week #7

Faithfulness / May 23, 2021 / Pastor Paul Taylor



### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Icebreaker Questions | Friends who are trustworthy and dependable over the long haul are harder to come by than acquaintances. Share briefly about a person in your life who is a faithful friend. How has that friendship been a blessing to you?

**Proverbs 17:17 (NLT)** – A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need.

**Proverbs 18:24 (AMP)** – The man of too many friends [chosen indiscriminately] will be broken in pieces and come to ruin, but there is a [true, loving] friend who [is reliable and] sticks closer than a brother.

2. Pastor Paul remarked that our culture has increasingly grown comfortable with unfaithfulness – broken promises, broken relationships, devaluing of truth, and disloyalty. Where have you recently witnessed this, been personally affected by it, or even acted unfaithfully?

### DIVING DEEPER

3. From beginning to end, the Bible declares God's faithfulness – his trustworthiness and dependability. The Bible specifically speaks of God's faithfulness to his word and the consistency of God's character. Read the following Scripture passages and discuss the corresponding questions.

**Deuteronomy 7:9 (NLT)** – Understand, therefore, that the Lord your God is indeed God. He is the faithful God who keeps his covenant for a thousand generations and lavishes his unfailing love on those who love him and obey his commands.

**Isaiah 55:10-11 (NLT)** – <sup>10</sup>“The rain and snow come down from the heavens and stay on the ground to water the earth. They cause the grain to grow, producing seed for the farmer and bread for the hungry. <sup>11</sup>It is the same with my word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it.

**Psalms 33:4 (NIV)** – For the word of the Lord is right and true; he is faithful in all he does.

**Numbers 23:19 (NLT)** – God is not a man, so he does not lie. He is not human, so he does not change his mind. Has he ever spoken and failed to act? Has he ever promised and not carried it through?

- a) Why does it matter that God shows faithfulness to his word and his promises? Said another way, what would it be like to worship and serve a God who isn't faithful?

b) Read 2 Corinthians 1:18-22. What do you believe it means that God's promises are "Yes" in Christ?

**2 Corinthians 1:18-22 (NIV)** – <sup>18</sup>But as surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not "Yes" and "No." <sup>19</sup>For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me and Silas and Timothy—was not "Yes" and "No," but in him it has always been "Yes." <sup>20</sup>For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God. <sup>21</sup>Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, <sup>22</sup>set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

4. Part of God's faithfulness includes his commitment to mature and sustain the faith of those who believe in him. Read the following Scripture passages and discuss the corresponding question.

**2 Timothy 2:11-13 (ESV)** – <sup>11</sup>The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; <sup>12</sup>if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; <sup>13</sup>if we are faithless, he remains faithful—

**1 Corinthians 1:8-9 (NIV)** – <sup>8</sup>He [God] will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup>God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Philippians 1:6 (NIV)** – being confident of this, that he [God] who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Can you recall a time or season in your life where God sustained you or matured your faith, despite the fact that you weren't pursuing or were even unfaithful to God? If so, share about that with your group.

5. Read Lamentations 3:19-26 together. Then reflect on this passage using the questions below.

**Lamentations 3:19-26 (NIV)** – <sup>19</sup>I remember my affliction and my wandering, the bitterness and the gall. <sup>20</sup>I well remember them, and my soul is downcast within me. <sup>21</sup>Yet this I call to mind and therefore I have hope: <sup>22</sup>Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. <sup>23</sup>They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. <sup>24</sup>I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for him." <sup>25</sup>The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; <sup>26</sup>it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.

a) When we experience affliction, uncertainty, and "our soul is downcast", what does the author of this passage point to as the source of hope?

b) How can we put faithfulness into action while simultaneously waiting on and trusting in the Lord?

## TAKING IT HOME

6. A Spirit-led life displays the fruit of faithfulness with our family, our friends, our fellowship in the local church, our work, and our finances. Reflect on these areas and discuss the corresponding questions.
  - a) We see in the parable of the talents that God rewards us for our faithfulness. While the parable speaks directly to financial stewardship, this is also a principle that applies more generally (see verses below). Of the areas listed above, is there one that stands out to you for how you've experienced God's reward and blessing for your faithfulness? Explain your answer.

**Matthew 25:23 (NIV)** – “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

**Colossians 3:23-24 (NIV)** – <sup>23</sup>Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, <sup>24</sup>since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.

**Proverbs 28:20 (ESV)** – A faithful man will abound with blessings, but whoever hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.

- b) Is there a particular area of your life that God is calling you to deepen your faithfulness to? Explain what this would look like and how you can begin growing in faithfulness in the coming weeks.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

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## RIVERS CROSSING – THINGS TO KNOW

1. 2021 Men’s Conference | There is a desire in all men to be better and do more, but an extraordinary life isn’t found sitting on the sidelines. Men, hang out with us on Saturday June 12th at Men’s Conference for a day of spiritual renewal, motivating messages from Mark Driscoll and yes, some manly fun. Lunch and dinner are provided with your ticket purchase. To learn more and purchase a ticket, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2021-mens-conference-tickets-143828790785?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>.