

RIVERS CROSSING COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Discussion Guide
May 20, 2018



community
GROUPS

The God I Don't Understand – Week #5

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING (SPEND 10-15 MINUTES HERE):

Spend a little time at the beginning of each week to talk through the “Bible in a Year” reading plan. Use this as a time to encourage, discuss, and apply what we’ve read together this week since our group last met. Give people an opportunity to share around these 3 general questions:

1. What passage(s) did God use this week to help you grow?
2. What passage(s) did you have challenges with? Why?
3. What passage(s) did you not understand?

Encourage your group members to dive into study and research when they come across passages that they don't agree with or don't understand. There are some great resources online. Here are a few to share:

<http://blueletterbible.org/> - Tons of biblical study resources available
For the Love of God – Vol 1 & 2 – Daily reading commentary

INTRO:

How do you handle passages about sex that you read in scripture? Do you ignore them or skim over them? Do they make you uncomfortable? Do they evoke questions or do you just move on?

DIVE IN:

1. Paul referenced some of the common sexual sins in scripture – rape, incest, polygamy, and fornication. How do you process the reality that the bible, our “holy book”, contains stories of these sins?
2. To help process the way we read the bible, Paul gave us a few “buckets” of understanding. How do you see the difference between prescriptive and descriptive when reading the bible? Cite some examples of each that you've read so far this year.
3. Does the prescriptive / descriptive understanding of scripture help re-frame your understanding of some of the difficult passages of scripture?
4. How do you view sex? Is your perspective founded in the world, in scripture, in experience, some blending of it all?
5. Pastor Paul said these passages are examples of “it's not what was supposed to happen but it is what happened.” How have you seen this play out in your own life?
6. How does knowing that the bible doesn't “sanitize” these stories, but instead shares them and shows how God uses them for His glory affect your view of scripture?
7. For parents with pre-teens and teens, share with everyone how have you have navigated your teens through the sex saturated world they live in today? Wins, losses, struggles? Your stories may

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help and encourage other parents who are dealing with the same things.

8. Paul acknowledged that nearly everyone has a “its not what was supposed to happen, but it is what happened” story in our lives – often in the area of our own sexuality. As you feel led, share how God’s used that experience in your own life for His redemption and His glory. How have you experienced freedom from that sin?
9. Pastor Paul dealt with brokenness around sexual sin. He also said if you can’t talk about it at church, where are you going to talk about it? It’s the same here with your group. There may be those who have stories to share about what has happened in their past or even happening now. You may have been a victim of sexual assault (Yes, you may have a #MeToo story). You may have a sexual addiction. You may struggle with pornography. You may have stories about struggles with adultery and fornication. If you feel led and prompted, share with the group. There is grace that abounding and you are in a safe place to share. As you feel led, share your story and if you need prayer, allow the others to pray over you and ask The Holy Spirit for healing.

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?