

RIVERS CROSSING COMMUNITY CHURCH



Community Group Discussion Guide – Prove It #1

Prove It at Home / October 11, 2020 / Pastor Micah Pelkey (Storyside Church)

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Icebreaker Questions: Share about a moment in your life where you've felt honored. What about that moment stood out to you then and still stands out to you now?
2. Our new series is all about proving our faith by living honorably, walking humbly and choosing to do good. Pastor Micah shared that honor elevates and dishonor deteriorates. Reflect on your upbringing and family of origin. How have you seen this principle play out in those core relationships?
3. Pastor Micah challenged us not to encourage, excuse, or defend dishonor. Reflect on your personality type and a recent example where you witnessed dishonor. Which one of these – encouraging, excusing, or defending – is the biggest struggle for you when it comes to handing dishonor? Share about why.

Romans 12:10 (NLT) – Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.

DIVING DEEPER

4. As a Community Group, read the core passage of scripture for our Prove It series – James: 3:13-16. Then read the additional verses and discuss the corresponding questions.

James 3:13-16 (NLT) – ¹³If you are wise and understand God's ways, prove it by living an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom. ¹⁴But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying. ¹⁵For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual, and demonic. ¹⁶For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find disorder and evil of every kind.

- a) What observation(s) do you have from these words of James? In contrast to living an honorable life, how does James describe a dishonorable life?

Proverbs 15:33 (NLT) – Fear of the Lord teaches wisdom; humility precedes honor.

1 Samuel 2:30 (NLT) – Therefore, the Lord, the God of Israel, says: I promised that your branch of the tribe of Levi would always be my priests. But I will honor those who honor me, and I will despise those who think lightly of me.

Psalms 22:23 (NLT) – Praise the Lord, all you who fear him! Honor him, all you descendants of Jacob! Show him reverence, all you descendants of Israel!

Proverbs 22:4 (NLT) – True humility and fear of the Lord lead to riches, honor, and long life.

James 3:17-18 (NLT) – ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first of all pure. It is also peace loving, gentle at all times, and willing to yield to others. It is full of mercy and the fruit of good deeds. It shows no favoritism and is always sincere. ¹⁸And those who are peacemakers will plant seeds of peace and reap a harvest of righteousness.

- b) Pastor Jeff Bloomfield previously taught that our ability to honor one another flows from the humility with which we honor God. What does it mean to have humility, especially in view of our relationship with God? Why is humility a necessary posture for honoring one another?

c) What do these verses say about the rewards that come from honoring God and others? Is it OK to be motivated by these rewards when pursuing to live a life of honor?

5. Read the following passage of scripture, which provides additional context to James' instruction to prove our faith by living an honorable life that is full of good works.

James 3:3-12 (NLT) – ³We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. ⁴And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. ⁵In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches. But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. ⁶And among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself. ⁷People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish,⁸but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. ¹⁰And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right! ¹¹Does a spring of water bubble out with both fresh water and bitter water? ¹²Does a fig tree produce olives, or a grapevine produce figs? No, and you can't draw fresh water from a salty spring.

How important are our words to living a life that shows honor to one another? How can we, through the power of the Holy Spirit, work to tame our tongues and use our words to bring honor?

TAKING IT HOME

6. Pastor Micah shared that we're all susceptible to dishonor. And since most of us don't wake up each morning and choose to be dishonoring, we must recognize that there is a process of gradual descent that can lead to dishonor in our lives. Review this process below:

Honor → Familiarity → Contempt → Dishonor → Division

Pastor Micah also shared that dishonor can creep into our lives through any, or all, or the following:

Dialogue / Diversity (of thoughts, options, etc.) / Distractions / Disappointments / Devil

a) Reflect on your current relationships, especially those within your family. If you're willing, share where honor may be slipping. Can you connect that to any of the stages listed above or any of the avenues that Pastor Micah mentioned?

b) How can you begin to work with God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to restore honor to this relationship? How can your Community Group support you?

PRAYER REQUESTS

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RIVERS CROSSING – THINGS TO KNOW

1. 2021 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 register for Discipleship School, click on the link below.

<https://riverscrossing.com/discipleship-school/>

2. Volunteer Opportunity – Cleaning Team. As we continue regathering as a church, we need your help to maintain our buildings and ensure their cleanliness for all who attend. Our Cleaning Team is looking for volunteers to serve on Sunday mornings. If you're interested, reach out via the link below.

<https://riverscrossing.wufoo.com/forms/z1rnyqjl03kz5jz/>