

RIVERS CROSSING COMMUNITY CHURCH



Community Group Discussion Guide – God, Are You Listening? Week #5

Worshipping Through Hard Times / May 17, 2020 / Pastor Paul Taylor

COMMUNITY GROUP NOTES

⇒ LAST WEEK OF THE SPRING 2020 QUARTER

May 17th – May 23rd is the last week of the Spring Quarter for Community Groups. Thanks so much for your engagement in our Groups Ministry during this unique season of navigating COVID-19! We hope that God has blessed your time together. During your last gathering, be intentional to discuss group plans for both the Summer Quarter (when Community Groups are on a season of rest and no weekly sermon-based content is provided) and the Fall Quarter. The second question of this week's group guide can help with those conversations. Additionally, use this time to remember and celebrate all that God has done in the lives of your group members.

⇒ NEW ONLINE STUDY GROUPS – A GREAT WAY TO ENGAGE THIS SUMMER!

Online Study Groups provide an environment where you can invest in your spiritual growth and connect in community. Three specific groups are being offered – The Blessed Life: Unlocking the Rewards of Generous Living, Starting Point: A Conversation About Faith, and Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles That Can Radically Change Your Family. Each group will begin the last week of May. For more information and to register, click on the link below.
Online Study Groups Registration: <https://riverscrossing.wufoo.com/forms/mz8hgjh0fr799d/>

⇒ 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 Questions – What musical genre and/or artist do you listen to the most? When it comes to worship music, are there any specific songs or hymns that have helped you better connect with God?
2. *Spring Quarter Community Group Wrap-Up Questions:*
 - ⇒ Reflect on your last several months in group. What has God been teaching you and where have you grown in your faith? As a reminder, our sermons during this time have covered relationships (Level Up), responding to the outbreak of COVID-19, and an in-depth study of Habakkuk (God, Are You Listening?). How has the group supported you during this season of your life?
 - ⇒ The Summer Quarter (June through August) is one of encouraged rest. Even if you don't meet with regularity, how can you stay connected with one another? If the church remains unable to meet in person for a large duration of the summer, would that impact your group plans?
 - ⇒ The Fall Quarter begins in September. Does your group plan to continue meeting in the fall? If yes, are there any changes you'd like to implement? For example – shared group leadership, logistical changes (day, time, childcare plans), welcoming new group members, increased focus on prayer, etc.
3. Pastor Paul shared that while it can be easy to celebrate and worship God when things are going well, it is often very hard to worship God when the things we're yearning and hoping for do not come to pass. How does this statement compare to your general experience with worshipping God?
4. Read Habakkuk 3:1-19 together. Trying circumstances – like poverty, sickness, strife, and loss – are often used by God to draw us closer to Him. Do you have a story of how God met you in a season of distress and breathed new life into your reasons for and practice of worshipping Him? If you're willing, share about that experience with your group members.

5. Read John 4:23-26 together. During his dialogue with the Samaritan woman at the well, Jesus taught that true worship of God involves both spirit and truth. Discuss the following questions.
- How does the idea of worshipping God in truth align with Habakkuk's example of praising God for who He is and what He has done? Explain your answer. How does understanding Jesus give us an even greater capacity to worship God in truth? *For additional study, consider verses 25-26; John 14:16, Hebrews 1:1-4, and Colossians 1:15-20.*
 - Worshipping God in spirit is a tricky phrase. Other instances of the word "spirit" in John (namely 13:21 and 3:6) can help us see that this phrase means worshipping God with our own emotions and feelings, especially ones that are produced in us by the Holy Spirit.

Read Matthew 15:7-8 together. What do Jesus' words teach us about simply going through the motions with worship? Many of us have experienced times when our heart feels far from or even apathetic toward God. When we find ourselves feeling like this, how should we approach worship?

COMMUNITY GROUP PRAYER TIME

We've talked about what it means to worship God. During your time of prayer, we encourage you to move from talking about worship together to *actually* worshipping God together! Most online meeting platforms offer the ability to share your screen. For a tutorial on how to do this with Zoom, click [HERE](#). Select and play a worship song and sing it together. Below are ideas to get you started, but feel free to choose your own.

Thank You Jesus by Hillsong Worship / https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHaQDS1_uvA

Christ Be Magnified by Cody Carnes / <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jjGMlYwK9M>

King of Kings by Hillsong Worship / <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Of5lcFWiEpg>

After worshipping, share personal prayer requests and pray for one another.

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