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# COMMUNITY GROUPS

## RIVERS CROSSING CHURCH

Community Group Discussion Guide

March 26, 2023

Made For Monday Week #2 / The Way We Work

Pastor Paul Taylor and Farrah Taylor

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Icebreaker Questions | What was your first job? What is your current occupation, or previous if you're retired? How have you experienced God's blessing through your work? Where does your work cause the most difficulties in your life?
2. This is the first week of the Spring Quarter for Community Groups. Use the following questions to "set the stage" for your time together these next nine weeks.
  - a) What are you looking forward to about being in a group this Spring? If this is your first experience with a small group at Rivers Crossing, what led you to join?
  - b) If your group is new, or you're welcoming new members, getting to know each other's personal story is a fantastic place to start building community. While there are many ways you can do this, here's a simple structure you can use: The "2x4" Story - Spend two minutes talking about each of these four aspects of your life: family of origin, current family, spiritual journey, and desired future.
3. The idea of a sacred-secular divide assumes a division between things that belong to God (i.e. faith, doctrine, practices like prayer and Bible reading, church, afterlife, etc.) and things that belong to the world apart from God (i.e. culture, politics, arts, work, etc.). But Pastor Paul declared that in God's Kingdom, there is no secular and sacred divide. What do you think about Pastor Paul's claim? Is everything spiritual?

**Colossians 1:16-17 (NIV)** - <sup>16</sup>For in him [Jesus Christ] all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. <sup>17</sup>He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.

**1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)** - So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

## DIVING DEEPER

4. We saw in the first week of Made For Monday that the same Hebrew word - "*abad*" (pronounced "*avad*") - is translated both as work and worship. God designed work to be an act of worshipping Him!

**Romans 12:1 (MSG)** - So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him.

**Colossians 3:23 (NLT)** - Work willingly at whatever you do, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people.

Is this the perspective you have about your work or do you tend to view work more as means to an end or even a necessary evil? Explain your answer.

5. Pastor Paul shared that when we work for Jesus, our work should reflect Jesus' extraordinary life. Read the following quote from Tim Keller and Katherine Leary Alsdorf and discuss the corresponding questions.

"If the point of work is to serve and exalt ourselves, then our work inevitably becomes less about the work and more about us. Our aggressiveness will eventually become abuse, our drive will become burnout, and our self-sufficiency will become self-loathing...But if the purpose of work is to serve and exalt something beyond ourselves, then we actually have a better reason to deploy our talent, ambition, and entrepreneurial vigor—and we are more likely to be successful in the long run, even by the world's definition." – *Every Good Endeavor (Book)*

a) What about Jesus' life made it extraordinary? How do you see the quote above lived out in the life of Jesus as written in the gospels?

b) How can you follow Jesus' example with your own work? Be practical!

6. Pastor Paul provided four ways we can express our love for God at work:

- Ethics - A standard of character that reflects your commitment to Jesus.
- Effort - Don't just show up, but give work everything you have.
- Enthusiasm - What's your attitude at work? (Romans 12:11)
- Excellence - Be the best at whatever you're doing! (Psalm 90:17)

2 Thessalonians 3:8-13 (NLT) – <sup>8</sup>We worked hard day and night so we would not be a burden to any of you. <sup>9</sup>We certainly had the right to ask you to feed us, but we wanted to give you an example to follow. <sup>10</sup>Even while we were with you, we gave you this command: "Those unwilling to work will not get to eat." <sup>11</sup>Yet we hear that some of you are living idle lives, refusing to work and meddling in other people's business. <sup>12</sup>We command such people and urge them in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ to settle down and work to earn their own living. <sup>13</sup>As for the rest of you, dear brothers and sisters, never get tired of doing good.

Which of these ways do you embody well with your work? Which do you sense there's a definite need to grow in? Explain your answers.

## TAKING IT HOME

7. Read Hebrews 2:16-18 together. Jesus Christ can help us with our work because He knows what it's like to be human and to work. Where are you in need of Jesus' help with your work? As people share, pray for one another and these areas of need!

Hebrews 2:16-18 (NLT) – <sup>16</sup>We also know that the Son did not come to help angels; he came to help the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup>Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people. <sup>18</sup>Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested.

8. Easter Services - Call To Invite Others | We're excited to celebrate Easter on April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>! Jesus is still restoring hearts and transforming lives-as His followers, it's our mission to share this hope with the world. As you add Easter at Rivers Crossing to your calendar, ask yourself- *who else* should be here this Easter? *Who else* needs to hear the hope of the resurrection? Whether you invite someone over lunch or send a simple text, this is the perfect opportunity to welcome people in your life to Easter at Rivers Crossing and the RC Kids Easter Celebration.

*Individual Challenge* - This week, come up with a list of five people to invite to Easter services. Then start inviting! We'll follow up next week and see how it's going.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

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## RIVERS CROSSING - THINGS TO KNOW

1. Easter at Rivers Crossing | While we gather to celebrate and reflect on Easter at Rivers Crossing, your kids will have tons of fun. We're throwing an RC Kids Easter Celebration full of laughter and excitement for everyone 6<sup>th</sup> grade and younger. As they experience the joy of Easter, they'll make new friends and memories to last a lifetime. Join us on April 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> for an unforgettable Easter at Rivers Crossing!

Saturday April 8<sup>th</sup> Service Times - 1pm, 3pm, and 5pm (Mason Campus)

Sunday April 9<sup>th</sup> Service Times - 8:45am, 10:15am, and 12pm (Mason Campus)

Sunday April 9<sup>th</sup> Service Time - 10am (Deer Park Campus)

Learn more at <https://riverscrossing.com/easter/>.

2. New Community Group Leaders | Interested in leading your own Community Group or have anyone you believe would make a great Community Group leader? If yes, we'd love the opportunity to connect with you or them and share more about our vision for groups at Rivers Crossing. We're always looking to create more space for people to experience and grow in the extraordinary life together!

New Group Leader Interest Form:

<https://riverscrossing.churchcenter.com/people/forms/414625>.

3. 2023 RC Students Summer Camp | Next summer (June 19-24, 2023), RC Students is going to Eagle Sky of the Ozarks for camp! We truly believe that Summer Camp is one of the best ways for your Junior High or High School student to get connected in RC Students. They'll build lasting bonds with other students and their leaders that will continue throughout the year. Most importantly, your student will have a week to focus on connecting with Jesus in a new way. Learn more and register below:

<https://riverscrossing.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1450605>



# COMMUNITY GROUPS

## MISSION AND VISION

### Groups Mission:

To provide people an opportunity to experience loving community as they pursue being 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*