

RIVERS CROSSING COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Discussion Guide – **God Never Said That, Week #2**

God Won't Give You More Than You Can Handle // May 5, 2019



Engage One Another – Connection

1. “Highs and Lows” Exercise: Have each person in the group briefly share their best (“high”) and worst (“low”) moments from the previous week. If a group member needs additional time to talk through a low moment they’re experiencing, be intentional as a group to listen to and care for this person.

Engage One Another – Introduction

2. It’s been said about life that chances are good that you’re either about to go into a difficult season, you’re in the middle of a difficult season, or you’re just now coming out of a difficult season. Which of these seasons do you identify with currently? Briefly explain your answer.
3. Read 1 Corinthians 10:13 together. Pastor Paul shared that this text, which deals specifically with temptation, helps to fuel the false and broader belief that God will never give us more than we can handle. Where do you believe this false assumption about God comes from?

Engage One Another – Diving Deeper

4. Pastor Paul taught that the first reason why God would allow us to experience more than we can handle is to teach us to **depend on God’s presence**. Reflect on the following questions together:
 - a. In your relationship with God, would you say that you’re more likely to seek out His presence and spend time with Him when life is going really well or when life gets difficult?
 - b. Read Jonah 1:17-2:7 together. While you might not relate to being in the belly of a giant fish, chances are that you’ve encountered difficult circumstances in your life and cried out to God in a manner similar to Jonah. If so, share about that time and how you felt. What questions did you ask God or what doubts did you have about His character during this difficult season?
 - c. Pastor Paul shared that we are to never let the presence of a storm in our life cause us to doubt the presence of God. Read Psalm 145:18 together. What does it mean to call on God in truth?
 - d. Share about a time when you’ve experienced the goodness of God during one of life’s valleys.
5. Pastor Paul shared that the second reason why God would allow us to experience more than we can handle is to teach us to **experience God’s power**. Reflect on the following questions together:
 - a. How can we discern whether we’re relying on our own will power and strength to walk through life rather than relying on and experiencing God’s supernatural power?
 - b. The apostle Paul wrestled with a “thorn in his flesh” (see 2 Corinthians 12:6-8). Many of us, because we live in a sinful world, have our own thorns that though we’ve pleaded with God, He doesn’t remove. If you’re willing, share about what this thorn could possibly be for you.
 - c. Read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 together. How can we move to the point where, like the apostle Paul, we actually boast in our weakness? How is this different than tolerating our weakness?
 - d. Share about a time when you’ve experienced how God’s strength and power is made perfect in your weakness.

→ Pause & Reflect:

In the Psalms, it’s called a “Selah”. A moment to catch your breath, rest, and praise. It’s an intentional break to reflect and fully experience the moment before moving on. How did God challenge, encourage, correct, etc... as your group engaged one another in this conversation?

Engage God – Time in Prayer

The false belief that God will never give you more than you can handle often results in a lot of pain, confusion, and doubt about the nature and character of God. We desperately hold onto our own struggles because we think these struggles are ours alone to handle and overcome. We isolate ourselves and don't confess our disobedience and sin because we don't want to appear weak and broken. In doing so, we miss out on experiencing the fullness of God's presence and power and the redemption and healing that come through these. We are created to need God, no matter if we're on the mountain top or in the valley. And we are created to turn to God, especially when we feel weak and broken.

For some of you, God is giving you more than you can handle in a manner that is completely out of your control. Maybe you relate to the apostle Paul and the thorn in his flesh. If that's you, spend time with your group in prayer asking for more of God's presence and that His power would be made evident in your weakness. For some of you, God is giving you more you can handle by allowing your disobedience to continue unchecked to the point where it is now wreaking havoc in your life. Maybe you can relate to King David and Jonah in their turning away from God's call on their life. If that's you, spend time with your group confessing your sin and asking to experience His forgiveness and healing. If you need to do this in a more private setting, ask one or two of your group members to pray separately with you.

*The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.
Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all.*

- Psalm 34:18-19 (ESV)

*Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed.
The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.*

- James 5:16 (ESV)

Engage One Another + Engage God = *Extraordinary Together*