

RIVERS CROSSING COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Discussion Guide – **The Table, Week #3**

April 14, 2019



Engage One Another – Connection

1. “Guess Who?” Exercise: Distribute pens and a small sheet of paper to each group member. Have each person write five facts about themselves on their sheet of paper and then collect the filled-out sheets in an envelope or bowl. Be sure not to write your name on the sheet of paper, and the more obscure the facts about yourself the better. Once all the sheets are collected, have the group leader (or another member) read the facts aloud, one by one, as other group members guess the person’s identity.

Engage One Another – Introduction

2. If you aren’t a believer in Jesus, what has drawn you to the table being set at Rivers Crossing? What about God and/or Jesus you have determined is worth learning more about? If you are a believer in Jesus, describe the circumstances that led to you first believing in and committing to following Jesus.
3. Share about a moment in your life where God moved in a powerful and tangible way. How did this experience impact your relationship with God, and how was it viewed by others in your life?

Engage One Another – Diving Deeper

4. Read John 6: 1-11, 25-35 together. As you either read or listened to this passage of scripture, which part stuck out to you the most? Explain your answer.
5. In examining Jesus’ interactions in John 6, Pastor Jeff shared that Jesus wasn’t just performing a miracle to reach those who didn’t know him (“Chair 1”), but He was also teaching his new followers (“Chair 2”) how to become true disciples (“Chair 3”). Reflect on the following questions:
 - a. Are you able to empathize with Philip, who saw no logical solution to feed the large crowd of people gathering around Jesus? Share about a difficult circumstance in your own life where you defaulted to your own way of thinking and forgot about the miraculous power of God?
 - b. Read Hebrews 12:2 together. In the face of all the challenges that life brings us, how can we fix our eyes on Jesus? Be practical as you discuss this question.
6. Though He didn’t need to, Jesus chose to perform this miracle through His believers. How does knowing that God wants to use us to change the lives of others impact your willingness to serve and give? Have you experienced the reality that serving people in meaningful and tangible ways makes them more receptive to hearing about your faith in Jesus Christ?
7. Pastor Jeff shared that Jesus will ultimately reveal your “Chair” by challenging your motives and underlying reasons for worshipping Jesus. If you identify yourself as a fully engaged follower of Jesus (“Chair 3”), share about the battle it takes with your flesh to remain in Chair 3. How does God’s gift of the Holy Spirit help believers to engage in this battle and progress in their spiritual journey?

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

One of our core values here at Rivers Crossing is Journey. We believe that saying yes to Jesus is not the end but the beginning of a lifelong journey of discipleship. Our church will embrace people wherever they are on their spiritual journey, all the while pointing them to Jesus as the source of an extraordinary life and calling them to commit their lives to following Him. No matter what “Chair” you identify with at the table, we all have a desperate need for Jesus. We all have a Savior who sees circumstances and things not as they are, but as they will become. And even more beautifully, we all have a Savior who sees people not as they are, but as they will become because of who Jesus is and what He’s already accomplished for us through His life, death, and resurrection. As you close the group in prayer, reflect on Jesus’ own instructions for how to pray:

“This, then, is how you should pray:

*‘Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.*

Give us today our daily bread.

*And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.*

*And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.’”*

- Matthew 6:9-13 (NIV)

Engage One Another + Engage God = *Extraordinary Together*

Additional Resources

1. Easter at Rivers Crossing – See all the details (including our new service times) and sign up to attend a service at our Deer Park campus at <https://riverscrossing.com/easter/>