

RIVERS CROSSING COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Discussion Guide – **The Table, Week #2**

April 7, 2019



Engage One Another – Connection

1. “Line Up” Exercise: This exercise requires a bit of movement. If that’s not conducive for your group members and/or group setting, then you can always have individuals raise their hands while seated. Ask your group members to form a line in the order of the following: 1) Birthdays, from January through December, 2) Alphabetical (A-Z) middle names, 3) Alphabetical mother’s maiden names, 4) Alphabetical street names for where you currently live, 5) Anything else you think of. Get creative and have fun!

Engage One Another – Introduction

2. Pastor Paul shared that the aroma of the bread of life (Jesus; see John 6:35) draws people to the table. Share about what brought you to Rivers Crossing. What did you notice about the church when you first began attending? What is it about Rivers Crossing that led you to call it your church home?
3. For anyone who first believed in and became a of follower of Jesus during your time at Rivers Crossing, share about the circumstances of that decision. How were you able to, as the Psalmist says, “taste and see that the Lord is good” (34:8)?

Engage One Another – Diving Deeper

4. Read Luke 14:25-33 together. Pastor Paul shared that to become a fully engaged follower of Christ, there is a cost – relationally, financially, and with your time. Reflect on the following questions:
 - a. What stuck out to you when reading Luke 14:25-33? What do you make of the apparent harshness of Jesus’ words concerning what it requires to follow Him?
 - b. As you’ve either considered following or sought to follow Jesus, which of the three costs has been most difficult for you to count? Explain your answer.
 - c. Read Matthew 13:44-46 together. If you’re a follower of Christ, how have you seen God’s blessings in your life related to your relationships, your finances, and your time?
5. Pastor Paul shared that fully engaged followers of Jesus do three things – share, serve, and sow. As you consider each of those actions, reflect on the follow questions:
 - a. Would you consider it easy or hard to share about your faith and invite others to church? Explain your answer. Where would you start if someone asked you about your faith?
 - b. How have you seen God use you to reach others for Christ? How often does your prayer life reflect a desire for God to connect you with people who don’t know Him?
 - c. If you’re currently serving at Rivers Crossing, share about what you do and how you got connected into that role. How has serving impacted your personal relationship with God?
6. Read Ephesians 2:8-10 together. God created and equipped us with talents, passions, giftings, time, and financial resources so that we could continue building His kingdom here on earth. What specific purpose or calling do you believe God has given you to accomplish? How are you living this out?
7. Outside of attending church services on Sunday mornings, what practices and rhythms have you built into your life to nourish your relationship with God? What next step do you believe God is calling you to take to continue maturing as a follower of Christ?

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

Following Jesus has a cost. We don't have to look any further than the words of Jesus himself to understand that reality. But the promise for those who follow Jesus, for those who count the cost, is that there is no cost we pay that won't be repaid a thousandfold in the resurrection life to come and even potentially here on earth. As you close your time together in group, pray for humility and strength to count the cost of what it means to follow Jesus. Ask for the Holy Spirit to instill in each of you the willingness and courage to continue taking steps forward as you pursue being a fully engaged follower of Jesus.

"Then he [Jesus] turned to his host. 'When you put on a luncheon or a banquet,' he said, 'don't invite your friends, brothers, relatives, and rich neighbors. For they will invite you back, and that will be your only reward. Instead, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. Then at the resurrection of the righteous, God will reward you for inviting those who could not repay you.'"

– Luke 14:12-14 (NLT)

"The thief's purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life."

– John 10:10 (NLT)

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/>
2. Sign up to learn about serving at Rivers Crossing by attending our next VolunTOUR on 4/14 @10:30am: <https://riverscrossing.com/get-involved/>
3. View the Generosity Calculator and sign up to give to Rivers Crossing: <https://riverscrossing.com/give/>