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COMMUNITY GROUPS

RIVERS CROSSING CHURCH

Community Group Discussion Guide

February 11, 2024

God Breathed Week #3 / Pastor Paul Taylor

What The Bible Is About

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Icebreaker Question | What's one thing you're currently looking forward to and/or hoping for with great anticipation? Share about why.
2. During Sunday's Super Bowl of Baptisms, we celebrated alongside and praised God for more than 100 people who made the decision to get baptized and go public with their profession of faith in Jesus Christ!

What do you recall of your own baptism experience? In what way(s) is your faith stirred by celebrating the baptisms of others in our church community?

3. Having reached the conclusion of our God Breathed series, how has your view of and desire to engage with the Bible - God's Word - been affected? How have you begun to put that into practice in your life?

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV) - ¹⁶All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, ¹⁷so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Clarifying the Bible Workshop (*Additional Date*) | Saturday March 16th, 9am - 12pm
Interested in diving deeper into God's Word, but not sure where to start? Through the Clarifying the Bible workshop, you'll learn the basic framework and storyline of the Bible in just one morning! We'll gather at both campuses on Saturday, March 16th from 9am-12pm to watch the video course together over coffee. Register using this link:
<https://riverscrossing.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2163020>

DIVING DEEPER

4. Pastor Paul's sermon this Sunday was titled "What The Bible Is About." Answer the following questions as a large group discussion:
 - How would you summarize the story of the Old Testament?
 - How would you summarize the story of the New Testament?
 - How would you summarize the story of the entire Bible?

Video Resource | The BibleProject - The Story of the Bible [5 minutes]
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_CGP-12AE0&t=319s

If a non-Christian family member, co-worker, or neighbor asked you to describe the impact the Bible has had on your life, how would you respond?

5. As Jesus' conversation on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24) indicates, He saw Himself as the very center of the Bible. It could be said that seeing and engaging with Jesus is the interpretive key to understanding the Bible.

John 5:39-40, 45-47 (NIV) – ³⁹You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, ⁴⁰yet you refuse to come to me to have life...⁴⁵“But do not think I will accuse you before the Father. Your accuser is Moses, on whom your hopes are set. ⁴⁶If you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote about me. ⁴⁷But since you do not believe what he wrote, how are you going to believe what I say?”

Using your knowledge of the Bible, can you think of specific ways the Old Testament helps us better understand Jesus and the rest of the New Testament? Share about those with your group.

6. Pastor Paul shared that we have to engage Jesus with our hands and hearts. As we read God's Word, we're to encounter Jesus – the Word made flesh (John 1:1, 14) – in a way that transforms us. Read the following passage together before discussing the corresponding questions.

Hebrews 4:6-16 (NIV) – ⁶Therefore since it still remains for some to enter that rest, and since those who formerly had the good news proclaimed to them did not go in because of their disobedience, ⁷God again set a certain day, calling it “Today.” This he did when a long time later he spoke through David, as in the passage already quoted: “Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.” ⁸For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken later about another day. ⁹There remains, then, a Sabbath-rest for the people of God; ¹⁰for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from their works, just as God did from his. ¹¹Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will perish by following their example of disobedience. ¹²For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. ¹³Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

¹⁴Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. ¹⁵For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. ¹⁶Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Reflect on your recent Bible reading. Where has God been engaging with your head and heart? How are you responding to that – both in prayer and action?

TAKING IT HOME

7. Prayer Prompt | Read Psalm 19:7-14 and pray together using the included prompts.

Psalm 19:7-14 (NIV) – ⁷The law of the Lord is perfect,
refreshing the soul.

The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy,
making wise the simple.

⁸The precepts of the Lord are right,
giving joy to the heart.

The commands of the Lord are radiant,
giving light to the eyes.

⁹The fear of the Lord is pure,
enduring forever.

The decrees of the Lord are firm,
and all of them are righteous.

¹⁰They are more precious than gold,
than much pure gold;

they are sweeter than honey,
than honey from the honeycomb.

¹¹By them your servant is warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²But who can discern their own errors?
Forgive my hidden faults.

¹³Keep your servant also from willful sins;
may they not rule over me.

Then I will be blameless,
innocent of great transgression.

¹⁴May these words of my mouth and this meditation of my heart
be pleasing in your sight,
Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.

Prayer prompts based on Psalm 19:7-14

- That God's Word would be to us a source of joy, refreshment, and wisdom
- That God's Word would be to us a gracious warning against sin and folly
- That God's Word would be something we find great reward in obeying

PRAYER REQUESTS

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RIVERS CROSSING - THINGS TO KNOW

1. Baby Dedication | Have you welcomed a new baby to your family over the last year? Congratulations! We're excited to celebrate your child at Baby Dedication on March 9th. The Baby Dedication experience will teach you how to lead your child in their faith, show you ways that Rivers Crossing will partner with you on this journey, and give you the opportunity to dedicate your child. Learn more and register below. <https://riverscrossing.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/1978441>
2. Clarifying the Bible Workshop | Interested in diving deeper into God's Word, but not sure where to start? Through the Clarifying the Bible workshop, you'll learn the basic framework and storyline of the Bible in just one morning! We'll gather at both campuses on Saturday, March 16th from 9am-12pm to watch the video course together over coffee. Register using this link: <https://riverscrossing.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2163020>
3. Serve at Rivers Crossing | One of the marks of a fully engaged follower is their willingness to invest into God's kingdom with their time, talents, and resources. We have opportunities to serve all throughout the week! Find the team that's the right fit for you and partner with us to create an environment for people to become fully engaged followers of Jesus. Learn more at <https://riverscrossing.com/serve-here/>