

RIVERS CROSSING COMMUNITY CHURCH



Community Group Discussion Guide

Holding On When Things Are Falling Apart / March 29, 2020 / Pastor Paul Taylor

COMMUNITY GROUP NOTES

⇒ HOSTING GROUPS ONLINE / COVID-19 PLANS

During this season where we cannot meet in person as a church family, we're encouraging people to connect and meet online. We've put together a resource guide for hosting online groups. That guide walks through available technology platforms and provides best practices for having a successful online gathering. You can access that resource guide by clicking on the link below. If you have questions about moving your group online, or would like to start a new online group, please reach out to Matt Jewell, the Director of Groups, at mjewell@riverscrossing.com.

Resource Guide: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1pr8HzqsyAD5bm2Z3uUwTkLU0uYdWtBir/view?usp=sharing>

⇒ HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST OR CARE NEED?

As a church, we're here for you and we are praying for you. If you have a prayer request or care need, you can submit both of those via the Rivers Crossing website (see the link below) or our church app.

Rivers Crossing Care Team: <https://riverscrossing.com/care-team/>

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Icebreaker Activity – Virtual Tour Guide: Have each person take turns giving everyone a quick tour of their immediate surroundings (i.e. walk through the room you're in, highlight a few items on your desk or shelves, talk about a piece of art or a picture hanging on your walls, etc.).
2. Where have you and your family experienced the biggest “shock to your system” or perspective shift as you've responded to the COVID-19 outbreak? How might this affect your life in the future?
3. How would you describe your level of engagement with the Bible? For instance, do you read and study the Bible on your own or is your primary interaction with it through a church sermon? What do you find enjoyable about reading the Bible? What do you find challenging about reading the Bible?
4. Are there particular passages of the Bible you've been reading and reflecting on during the COVID-19 outbreak? If so, share those with your group and why they've been impactful to you.
5. Read James 1:19-27 together and discuss the corresponding questions.
 - a) In your own words, describe the analogy that James uses in verses 23-25 to emphasize his instruction to be “doers of the word, and not hearers only” (ESV translation).
 - b) Share an example of where obedience to God's Word is producing freedom and joy in your life. If you're willing, share an example of where obedience to God's Word is a struggle.
6. What step can you take to grow deeper in your engagement with the Bible? How can your group help encourage and hold you accountable with this step?

COMMUNITY GROUP PRAYER TIME

Prayer Exercise: Read Psalm 119:1-24 together. As group members feel led, pray the Psalmists' words back to God. For example, one could pray the following in response to verses 15-16 – “God, help me prioritize spending time in your Word. Bring joy into my life as I read the Bible. Help me remember and apply what I read so that I can better love those around me.”

Additionally, you're encouraged to share personal prayer requests and pray for one another.

Global Prayer Movement – #Unite714 / Find more information on Unite714 by clicking [HERE](#).

RESOURCES TO HELP YOU ENGAGE WITH THE BIBLE

1. Rivers Crossing 30-Day Bible Reading Plan / <https://riverscrossing.com/2199-2/>
2. Rivers Crossing Journal – Available for purchase at the church merchandise store / [Twitter Feed](#)
3. Mobile Bible Apps [click to access]: [YouVersion](#), [Read Scripture](#), and [Bible.is](#)
4. Bible Study Websites [click to access]: [Bible Gateway](#), [Blue Letter Bible](#), and [Bible Hub](#)
5. The Bible Project – A collection of beautifully-illustrated Bible videos / <https://bibleproject.com>
6. RightNow Media – Normally subscription-based, but they are currently offering access to a limited portion of their media library in light of the COVID-19 outbreak / <https://www.rightnowmedia.org>
7. Logos article on basic Bible study techniques / <https://blog.logos.com/2017/03/5-basic-bible-study-techniques-shouldnt-ignore/>