

# RIVERS CROSSING COMMUNITY CHURCH

## Community Group Discussion Guide – Life In Technicolor Week #6

*The Word of The Lord / October 24, 2021 / Pastor Paul Taylor*



### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Icebreaker Question | If you were going on a spiritual retreat, what three things (other than your Bible) would you take and why?
2. Psalm 105 is written in the tradition of a historical psalm and celebrates God's faithful dealings with the nation of Israel in the Old Testament. Read this psalm together and discuss the corresponding questions.

**Psalm 105 (NLT)** – <sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the Lord and proclaim his greatness. Let the whole world know what he has done. <sup>2</sup>Sing to him; yes, sing his praises. Tell everyone about his wonderful deeds. <sup>3</sup>Exult in his holy name; rejoice, you who worship the Lord. <sup>4</sup>Search for the Lord and for his strength; continually seek him. <sup>5</sup>Remember the wonders he has performed, his miracles, and the rulings he has given, <sup>6</sup>you children of his servant Abraham, you descendants of Jacob, his chosen ones.

<sup>7</sup>He is the Lord our God. His justice is seen throughout the land. <sup>8</sup>He always stands by his covenant—the commitment he made to a thousand generations. <sup>9</sup>This is the covenant he made with Abraham and the oath he swore to Isaac. <sup>10</sup>He confirmed it to Jacob as a decree, and to the people of Israel as a never-ending covenant: <sup>11</sup>“I will give you the land of Canaan as your special possession.”

<sup>12</sup>He said this when they were few in number, a tiny group of strangers in Canaan. <sup>13</sup>They wandered from nation to nation, from one kingdom to another. <sup>14</sup>Yet he did not let anyone oppress them. He warned kings on their behalf: <sup>15</sup>“Do not touch my chosen people, and do not hurt my prophets.”

<sup>16</sup>He called for a famine on the land of Canaan, cutting off its food supply. <sup>17</sup>Then he sent someone to Egypt ahead of them—Joseph, who was sold as a slave. <sup>18</sup>They bruised his feet with fetters and placed his neck in an iron collar. <sup>19</sup>Until the time came to fulfill his dreams, the Lord tested Joseph's character. <sup>20</sup>Then Pharaoh sent for him and set him free; the ruler of the nation opened his prison door. <sup>21</sup>Joseph was put in charge of all the king's household; he became ruler over all the king's possessions. <sup>22</sup>He could instruct the king's aides as he pleased and teach the king's advisers.

<sup>23</sup>Then Israel arrived in Egypt; Jacob lived as a foreigner in the land of Ham. <sup>24</sup>And the Lord multiplied the people of Israel until they became too mighty for their enemies. <sup>25</sup>Then he turned the Egyptians against the Israelites, and they plotted against the Lord's servants.

<sup>26</sup>But the Lord sent his servant Moses, along with Aaron, whom he had chosen. <sup>27</sup>They performed miraculous signs among the Egyptians, and wonders in the land of Ham. <sup>28</sup>The Lord blanketed Egypt in darkness, for they had defied his commands to let his people go. <sup>29</sup>He turned their water into blood, poisoning all the fish. <sup>30</sup>Then frogs overran the land and even invaded the king's bedrooms. <sup>31</sup>When the Lord spoke, flies descended on the Egyptians, and gnats swarmed across Egypt. <sup>32</sup>He sent them hail instead of rain, and lightning flashed over the land. <sup>33</sup>He ruined their grapevines and fig trees and shattered all the trees. <sup>34</sup>He spoke, and hordes of locusts came—young locusts beyond number. <sup>35</sup>They ate up everything green in the land, destroying all the crops in their fields. <sup>36</sup>Then he killed the oldest son in each Egyptian home, the pride and joy of each family.

<sup>37</sup>The Lord brought his people out of Egypt, loaded with silver and gold; and not one among the tribes of Israel even stumbled. <sup>38</sup>Egypt was glad when they were gone, for they feared them greatly.

<sup>39</sup>The Lord spread a cloud above them as a covering and gave them a great fire to light the darkness.

<sup>40</sup>They asked for meat, and he sent them quail; he satisfied their hunger with manna—bread from heaven. <sup>41</sup>He split open a rock, and water gushed out to form a river through the dry wasteland. <sup>42</sup>For he remembered his sacred promise to his servant Abraham. <sup>43</sup>So he brought his people out of Egypt with joy, his chosen ones with rejoicing. <sup>44</sup>He gave his people the lands of pagan nations, and they harvested crops that others had planted. <sup>45</sup>All this happened so they would follow his decrees and obey his instructions. Praise the Lord!

- a) How can looking back on and expressing gratitude for what God has done in your life help sustain you during a season where your faith is being tested?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- b) What are some specific events or periods in your life you frequently come back to when you need reminding of God's love and faithfulness?

## DIVING DEEPER

3. Pastor Paul preached on the prophetic – the idea that God still speaks to us today apart from his literal Word (i.e., the Bible), but never in contrast to his Word.
  - a) What personal beliefs do you have about prophetic words and how did you arrive at those beliefs?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b) Did anything from Pastor Paul's sermon challenge or support your current understanding of how God speaks? If so, explain your answer.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c) What prior experience – either by receiving a word from God or another person or speaking a word to another person – do you have with prophetic words?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. When he was young, Joseph received a prophetic word from God in the form of two dreams dealing with Joseph's authority and his family (see Genesis 37). Is there a prophetic word, or multiple words, you've received from God or others that you're waiting to come to fruition? If so and you're willing, share about that with your group.
  - a) How has your faith been tested in living with this prophetic word(s)?

b) How has this prophetic word(s) impacted the choices you've made when following God?

**Psalm 105:17-19 (NLT)** – <sup>17</sup>Then he sent someone to Egypt ahead of them—Joseph, who was sold as a slave. <sup>18</sup>They bruised his feet with fetters and placed his neck in an iron collar. <sup>19</sup>Until the time came to fulfill his dreams, the Lord tested Joseph's character.

**Psalm 105:19 (NASB)** – Until the time that his word came to pass, The word of the Lord refined him.

## TAKING IT HOME

5. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 and 1 Corinthians 14:29 together. Pastor Paul shared that we're to test each prophetic word we receive by comparing and submitting it to God's literal Word (i.e., the Bible) and by seeking the counsel and leadership of others.
  - a) In order to submit a prophetic word to God's literal Word, we have to spend time reading and studying the Bible. To what extent is personal Bible reading a priority for you? What habits have you formed around knowing the Bible? Where are you looking to grow in your knowledge of the Bible?

b) Who would you reach out to in order to discuss a prophetic word you received?

**1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 (ESV)** – <sup>19</sup>Do not quench the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Do not despise prophecies, <sup>21</sup>but test everything; hold fast what is good.

**1 Corinthians 14:29 (NLT)** – Let two or three people prophesy, and let the others evaluate what is said.

## PRAYER REQUESTS

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## RIVERS CROSSING – THINGS TO KNOW

1. When Ordinary Becomes Extraordinary (WOBE) | We're having a night of worship and prophetic ministry on Sunday, October 24th at 6:30pm at our Mason campus. As we gather to exalt the name of Jesus, you will encounter the power of God and the ministry of the Holy Spirit in your life. Come expectantly, come ready to see God move, come to seek the extraordinary life. Where possible, Community Groups are encouraged to attend and participate in WOBE together.
2. 2022 Discipleship School | Discipleship School is a one-year program that helps Christians from all backgrounds become fully engaged followers of Christ. The school helps students learn to hear God's voice clearly, experience a full and free life, develop intimacy with God, develop Christlike living, and understand their spiritual gifting. For more information, or to apply for the Discipleship School, click on the link below. <https://riverscrossing.com/discipleship-school/>