

# RIVERS CROSSING COMMUNITY CHURCH



## Community Group Discussion Guide – Know Your Enemy #3

*The Theory of Worship* / November 15, 2020 / Pastor Rand Stephens

### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Icebreaker Questions | What impact has music had on your life? Who are a few of your favorite musical artists? Share a memorable story you have of attending a concert/musical performance.
2. Icebreaker Activity | One of the things you discovered when you began driving is to watch the gauges on your dash. Most people can't see or sense a problem in their car as quickly as these gauges can. You can practice this in your life by monitoring three gauges – spiritual, emotional, and physical. Take time to silently consider the questions below for each gauge. Then provide the group with an honest assessment for what each of your gauges read. Are they full, empty, halfway, etc?  
*Spiritual* – How's your personal time with God (ex: reading the Bible, time in prayer, etc.)? How is your heart in worship? How is your heart toward God?  
*Emotional* – Do your relationships with your spouse, fellow workers, or close friends create or drain energy? Do you find that you are frequently experiencing strong emotions (anger, sadness, etc.)? Have you felt emotionless recently?  
*Physical* – Are you tired all the time? What have your recent sleep and eating patterns been? Are you getting any exercise and replenishing yourself?
3. Was there anything from Pastor Rand's message on worship that caught your attention, challenged, or perhaps confused you? Explain your answer.

### DIVING DEEPER

4. The Bible is full of examples of God's people worshipping Him and ongoing instruction to worship God through singing. Read the following scripture passages and discuss the corresponding questions.  
**Exodus 15:1-2 (NLT)** – <sup>1</sup>Then Moses and the people of Israel sang this song to the Lord: "I will sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously; he has hurled both horse and rider into the sea. <sup>2</sup>The Lord is my strength and my song; he has given me victory. This is my God, and I will praise him— my father's God, and I will exalt him!"  
**2 Samuel 22:50-51 (NLT)** – <sup>50</sup>For this, O Lord, I will praise you among the nations; I will sing praises to your name. <sup>51</sup>You give great victories to your king; you show unfailing love to your anointed, to David and all his descendants forever."  
**Psalms 100 (NLT)** – <sup>1</sup>Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth! <sup>2</sup>Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy. <sup>3</sup>Acknowledge that the Lord is God! He made us, and we are his. We are his people, the sheep of his pasture. <sup>4</sup>Enter his gates with thanksgiving; go into his courts with praise. Give thanks to him and praise his name. <sup>5</sup>For the Lord is good. His unfailing love continues forever, and his faithfulness continues to each generation.  
**Colossians 3:16-17 (NLT)** – <sup>16</sup>Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts. <sup>17</sup>And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father.

- a) In your own words, share about why Christians are called to worship God through singing. What are we doing when we come before God in worship? How do you see that in the above verses?
  - b) Whether you're attending church online or coming to in-person services, what are the common impediments that keep you from connecting with God through worship music?
5. Pastor Rand's primary text for Sunday's sermon was Isaiah 6:1-8. From that text, he noted that Isaiah experienced four things in the presence of God – conviction, confession, cleansing, and calling.

**Isaiah 6:1-8 (NIV)** – <sup>1</sup>In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup>Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying. <sup>3</sup>And they were calling to one another: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory." <sup>4</sup>At the sound of their voices the doorposts and thresholds shook and the temple was filled with smoke. <sup>5</sup>"Woe to me!" I cried. "I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty." <sup>6</sup>Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with tongs from the altar. <sup>7</sup>With it he touched my mouth and said, "See, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away and your sin atoned for." <sup>8</sup>Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" ...I said, "Here am I. Send me!"

Reflect on your relationship with God. Have you experienced any or all of these elements – conviction, confession, cleansing, and calling – when worshipping God through music? If you're willing, share a personal story related to that experience with your group members.

## TAKING IT HOME

6. Moving forward, how can you more intentionally lead yourself and your family to worship God?

## PRAYER REQUESTS

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## RIVERS CROSSING – THINGS TO KNOW

1. Remember Song Release | Rivers Crossing Worship is releasing an original single titled Remember on Sunday November 15th! You can purchase Remember on iTunes or listen to it on Spotify and Apple Music. Purchase Remember on iTunes: <https://music.apple.com/us/album/remember-single/1538437741>
2. 2021 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 register for Discipleship School, click on the link below. <https://riverscrossing.com/discipleship-school/>
3. Volunteering at Rivers Crossing | Everything we do as a church is made possible because of our incredible volunteer teams. Whether they're leading a group in River Kids, welcoming first time guests or helping produce our online services, each person makes a huge impact. If you'd like to find a place to serve, click the following link <https://riverscrossing.com/get-involved/>