

RIVERS CROSSING COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Discussion Guide – Prove It #3

Prove It In Your Community / October 25, 2020 / Pastor Paul Taylor



GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Icebreaker – Halloween Questions | What is your favorite Halloween candy? Share a memorable story about Halloween – perhaps an eventful night of trick-or-treating or a legendary homemade custom.
2. Last week's message was titled Prove It In The Church. This week, Pastor Paul gave an exhortation to serve in the local church. Share about your experience volunteering in church (with Rivers Crossing or other churches) – What role(s) have you had? What impact has serving had on your relationship with God and your ability to find community? Any favorite memories related to serving?

If you've not served before or aren't currently serving at Rivers Crossing, what's holding you back? Given your passions, talents, and giftings, what do you believe an ideal serving role would look like for you?

3. The Apostle Peter tells us in 1 Peter 2:16-17 that everyone is worthy of honor. Pastor Paul provided five core categories of people we're called to honor – others who are different than us, authority figures, the elderly, the poor, and those who don't know Jesus.
 - a) Who do you find most natural to honor? Who do you find most difficult to honor? Are there any of these people that you find yourself indifferent about honoring? Explain your answers.
 - b) Why should we honor those who don't seem to be worthy of honor? If you're willing, share a personal story about doing this and how you've seen God work in that relationship.

1 Peter 2:16-17 (NLT) – ¹⁶Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. ¹⁷Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

DIVING DEEPER

4. As a Community Group, read the following Bible passages and discuss the corresponding questions.

Romans 12:9-21 (ESV) – ⁹Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. ¹⁰Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. ¹²Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. ¹³Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. ¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. ¹⁸If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." ²⁰To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." ²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

1 Peter 2:11-17 (ESV) – ¹¹Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul. ¹²Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. ¹³Be subject for the Lord's sake to every human institution, whether it be to the emperor as supreme, ¹⁴or to governors as sent by him to punish those who do evil and to praise those who do

good. ¹⁵For this is the will of God, that by doing good you should put to silence the ignorance of foolish people. ¹⁶Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but living as servants of God. ¹⁷Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.

1 Peter 3:8-9,13-18 (ESV) – ⁸Finally, all of you, have unity of mind, sympathy, brotherly love, a tender heart, and a humble mind. ⁹Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing... ¹³Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil. ¹⁸For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit

Using these Bible passages, what are the characteristics of an honorable life and showing honor to others? Write down all the observations made by your group during this time of study. Once your list of observations is made, have someone read it back to the group. What stands out to you?

5. 1 Samuel 24 depicts a remarkable encounter between David and Saul. This story offers a wealth of insight about honoring those in authority. For context, while Saul is the current king of Israel, God has already rebuked and rejected him (1 Samuel 13 & 15) and anointed David (see 1 Samuel 16:1-13).

[Read 1 Samuel 24](#) together and discuss the corresponding questions. *[click link to access BibleGateway]*

- a) What recommendation did David receive from his men on how to treat Saul? What advice does the world typically offer us for how we're to treat our adversaries?
- b) What reasons does David give for sparing Saul's life? What impact do David's actions have on Saul? How can we apply David's wisdom to honoring those in authority who we have disagreements with or have difficulty respecting?
- c) Read 1 Timothy 2:1-4. How often do you pray for those in authority? Explain your answer.

1 Timothy 2:1-4 (NIV) – ¹I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— ²for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

TAKING IT HOME

6. Group Activity | Show Honor In Your Community

Pastor Paul shared a list of ten ways you can show honor in your community. Review those below and think creatively about your own ideas. As a short-term goal, how can you practice showing honor this week? Share your personal action step and plan to discuss how it went the next time you gather.

From a long-term perspective, what do you as an individual, or your family as a whole, need to either stop doing or start doing, so that honor will increase? Keep these goals in mind as you close in prayer.

10 Ways To Show Honor In Your Community:

- 1. Double your tip the next time you eat out.
- 2. Thank a police officer for their service to your community.

3. Thank someone who serves our country in the military.
4. Thank a health care worker for enduring and serving in this pandemic.
5. Pay it forward in a drive through.
6. Bring your neighbor's trash cans up.
7. Honor a coach or teacher with a handwritten note and gift card.
8. Drop off a care package to someone in a retirement community.
9. Serve the poor through Joshua's Place or another non-profit in your local community.
10. Honor your spiritual leaders.

PRAYER REQUESTS

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RIVERS CROSSING – THINGS TO KNOW

1. 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/>
2. 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/>
3. Joshua's Place | Our local outreach ministry Joshua's Place exists to help individuals and families overcome the barriers in their lives that cause instability. You can learn more about and get involved with Joshua's Place by visiting <https://www.joshuasplace.cc>