

RIVERS CROSSING COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Discussion Guide
April 29, 2018



The God I Don't Understand – Week #2

BIBLE IN A YEAR READING (SPEND 10-15 MINUTES HERE):

Spend a little time at the beginning of each week to talk through the “Bible in a Year” reading plan. Use this as a time to encourage, discuss, and apply what we’ve read together this week since our group last met. Give people an opportunity to share around these 3 general questions:

1. What passage(s) did God use this week to help you grow?
2. What passage(s) did you have challenges with? Why?
3. What passage(s) did you not understand?

Encourage your group members to dive into study and research when they come across passages that they don't agree with or don't understand. There are some great resources online. Here are a few to share:

<http://blueletterbible.org/> - Tons of biblical study resources available

For the Love of God – Vol 1 & 2 – Daily reading commentary

INTRO:

Have you ever been put on the spot to defend God with questions around his actions in scripture? How do you handle those questions? How do they affect your faith?

DIVE IN:

Read all of Psalm 131 together as a group, PRAY FOR WISDOM AND THE HOLY SPIRIT'S PRESENCE, and THEN discuss the questions below:

1. As we tackle a really challenging topic of violence in scripture, Pastor Paul said “being disturbed by the things we read in scripture should make you think critically about your faith.” How did this week's message affect your thought process on a challenging topic?
2. Sometimes there are no “good God answers”. How does realizing that there are some things about God and scripture that you will never fully understand affect your faith?
3. Pastor Paul read a quote from Richard Dawkins that says that Christians can be desensitized to the topic of violence. How have you thought about these passages before – indifference, avoidance, frustration, confusion, etc...?
4. When you read about the Canaanites, how do you view them? Israelites enemy? Humans in need of grace? Are they abstract or real to you?
5. Pastor Paul said, “We’ve justified behaviors for generations against people who are different than us”. Christians have regularly used God's word as a weapon to promote their own agendas. How do we keep ourselves from rationalizing the way we treat others that are different?

RIVERS CROSSING COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Discussion Guide
April 29, 2018



The God I Don't Understand – Week #2

6. The Israelites are weaponless people wandering in the desert for 40 years, fighting against equipped and fortified armies. How did they “win” these battles?
7. Paul said we have to have a framework to think theologically when we face challenges in scripture we don't understand. How do you approach things in the bible you don't understand?
8. God has authority. Why does our flesh so quickly fight against this truth?
9. We want God to be a just God when it's for “them”, we want him to be a God of grace when it's for “us”. How do you accept God as just whether it fits your agenda and desires or not?
10. Pastor Paul reminded us that this passage is not about race. It's not ethnic cleansing, etc... It was not “the Israelites using God to fight for their cause, it was God using them for His will for His people.” How does this help your perspective of the passage, and also of God?
11. Paul read a quote from Ron (yeah Ron!) that gave some great perspective. He said – “the destruction God called for was to destroy the very things that would lead to the destruction of the Israelites if it were left unconquered.” What a great reminder to us even now - what happens when you let sin and temptation linger?
12. What is God calling you to remove from your life before it destroys you? Are you taking Him seriously? What actions do you need to take to be obedient?

NOW WHAT:

1. What part of this week's message has had the greatest impact on you? What truth(s) has God taught you through the message and our group discussion?
2. What do you need to do with that truth this week to become a fully engaged follower of Jesus?