

RIVERS CROSSING COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group Discussion Guide – **The Table, Week #1**

March 31, 2019



Engage One Another – Connection

1. “Everyone Carries a Camera in Their Pocket” Exercise: Have each person look through their phone and find a picture that represents a cherished memory and/or a good story. Share your photo by holding your phone up or passing it around the room. Briefly describe why you selected that particular photo. Bonus points if you gather together at the end of this exercise and take a community group picture.

Engage One Another – Introduction

2. What was your family table like growing up: who sat at it, how often was it used, and what memories do you have of sitting around it? Using these same questions, describe your current table.
3. Share about your background attending and participating in church. What do you believe is the purpose of the church as a whole (not just Rivers Crossing)? How does that compare with what Pastor Paul taught – that the church is the table where people come to feed on the bread of life (John 6:35)?

Engage One Another – Diving Deeper

4. Here at Rivers Crossing, part of our core strategy is to defer to our guests. We want to think and act in a creative and compelling manner to present and introduce others to Jesus. How does this knowledge impact the way you view and evaluate Rivers Crossing?

At Rivers Crossing, we set our table for three chairs – people who don’t know the Lord (“Chair One”), people who are new believers and followers of Jesus (“Chair Two”), and people who are mature, fully-engaged followers of Jesus (“Chair Three”). The following questions are based on each of these chair types.

5. Chair One reflection questions:
 - a. If you’re in Chair One, what led you to attend Rivers Crossing? What, if anything, has the church done to make you feel accepted and welcomed? Do you sense that God is drawing you to Him?
 - b. Pastor Paul shared that just because you’re in a chair at the table, it doesn’t make you a Christian. Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus or are you merely religious?
 - c. If you consider yourself a mature follower of Jesus, are you reaching out to people in your life who could fill Chair One at Rivers Crossing? If not, what is holding you back?
6. Chair Two reflection questions:
 - a. Share briefly about your spiritual journey to become a believer and follower of Jesus Christ.
 - b. If you’re someone who identifies most closely with Chair Two, what steps do you feel led to take so you can move to Chair Three? How can your group help you with those steps?
7. As you’ve matured in your relationship with Jesus and moved into occupying Chair Three, how have you seen changes related to the following – your choices, your priorities, and your values?
8. Read Hebrews 5:12-6:1 together. Pastor Paul shared about one final chair – the “I” Chair and discussed how many Christians get stuck here focusing on our own needs and being fed. Can you relate to sitting in the “I” Chair? If so, what caused you to take a seat at that particular chair? If you humble enough to admit to currently sitting in the “I” Chair, what do you need to do and/or get help with to remove yourself from this position at the table?

Pause & Reflect:

In the Psalms, it's called a "Selah". A moment to catch your breath, rest, and praise. It's an intentional break to reflect and fully experience the moment before moving on. How did God challenge, encourage, correct, etc... as your group engaged one another in this conversation?

Engage God – Time in Prayer

At Rivers Crossing, one of our core values is Journey. We believe that saying yes to Jesus is not the end but the beginning of a lifelong journey of discipleship. We are committed to embracing people wherever they are on their spiritual journey, pointing them to Jesus as the source of an extraordinary life and calling them to commit their lives to following Him. No matter which seat at the table you occupy, know that you are welcomed, accepted, and loved. As you close out your time together, spend time in prayer reflecting on and expressing gratitude for where you currently are in your spiritual journey. Express your praise to a God who both draws us to Him (John 6:44) and desires that we grow up into spiritual maturity (Hebrews 6:1).

"So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness."

Colossians 2:6-7 (NIV)

Engage One Another + Engage God = *Extraordinary Together*

Additional Resources

1. Easter at Rivers Crossing – See all the details (including our new service times) and sign up to attend a service at our Deer Park campus at <https://riverscrossing.com/easter/>