

# RIVERS CROSSING COMMUNITY CHURCH

## Community Group Discussion Guide – Trail Markers Week #3

Peace / April 25, 2021 / Pastor Paul Taylor



### GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Icebreaker Questions | Playing off the name of our series – Trail Markers – Pastor Paul has told several stories of his outdoor hiking adventures. Share your favorite or most adventurous outdoor hiking story with your group. Is hiking an activity you currently enjoy and work into your schedule?
2. Pastor Paul shared that our peace is often robbed by our expectations. Specifically, our expectation that following Jesus will lead to less trouble and not more trouble. Is this an expectation you've wrestled with? If so, explain. In what ways have you dealt with more trouble since following Jesus?

**John 16:33 (NIV)** – “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”

### DIVING DEEPER

3. Read John 14:25-27 together. In your own words, explain how the peace of Jesus Christ is different from the peace the world gives. How might you share about this difference when comforting a non-Christian friend or family member who is experiencing a storm that has eroded their peace?

**John 14:25-27 (NIV)** – <sup>25</sup>“All this I have spoken while still with you. <sup>26</sup>But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. <sup>27</sup>Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

4. Pastor Paul taught that when we're experiencing a storm that robs us of peace, we should consider whether it's a correcting storm or a perfecting storm. In other words, is it a storm of our own making that calls for turning back to God, or a storm God is allowing to happen to make us more like Jesus (Romans 8:28-29)? Read Hebrews 12:1-14 together and discuss the corresponding questions.

**Hebrews 12:1-14 (NLT)** – <sup>1</sup>Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup>fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup>Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. <sup>4</sup>In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. <sup>5</sup>And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, “My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, <sup>6</sup>because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.”



## PRAYER REQUESTS

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## RIVERS CROSSING – THINGS TO KNOW

1. 2021 Men's Conference | There is a desire in all men to be better and do more, but an extraordinary life isn't found sitting on the sidelines. Men, hang out with us on Saturday June 12th at Men's Conference for a day of spiritual renewal, motivating messages from Mark Driscoll and yes, some manly fun. Lunch and dinner are provided with your ticket purchase. To learn more and purchase a ticket, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2021-mens-conference-tickets-143828790785?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>.
2. When Ordinary Becomes Extraordinary (WOBE) | We're having a night of worship and prophetic ministry on Sunday, May 2nd at 6:30pm at our Mason Campus. As we gather to exalt the name of Jesus Christ, 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, and come to seek the extraordinary life.
3. Baptisms – Sunday May 16th | We believe baptism is an integral part of your spiritual journey and necessary as you seek to become a fully engaged follower of Christ. If you've recently decided to follow Jesus or you've been a Christ follower for a while, now is the perfect time to take the next step and get baptized. Learn more and sign up at <https://riverscrossing.com/baptism/>.