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COMMUNITY GROUPS

RIVERS CROSSING CHURCH

Community Group Discussion Guide

September 17, 2023

Stuck Together Week #2 / Pastor Paul Taylor

Parenting In An Online World

GETTING TO KNOW YOU

1. Icebreaker Question | What are some of your favorite activities to do as a family?
2. Icebreaker Question | What's a current area of your family life that stresses you out?
3. What are you looking forward to about being in a Community Group this Fall?
If this is your first experience with a group at Rivers Crossing, what led you to join?
4. If your group is new, or you're an existing group welcoming new members, getting to know each other's personal story is a fantastic place to start building community. While there are many ways you can do this, here's a simple structure you can use: The "2x4" Story - Spend two minutes talking about each of these four aspects of your life: family of origin, current family, spiritual journey, and desired future.

DIVING DEEPER

5. In his first sermon of the Stuck Together series, Pastor Paul shared that we have to move from fighting each other to fighting for our families. We can do this by...
 - o Fighting for our relationship with Jesus
 - o Fighting for our relationship with each other
 - o Fighting for our relationship with our kids
 - a) Which of these represents an area you're currently fighting for well? Explain. Which represents an area you feel weak in/want to grow in? If you're willing to share, why did you choose this area?
 - b) Families can often be built upon a set of unrealistic expectations. Can you think of a particular time where you encountered this in your own life? If so, how did you attempt to navigate your expectations with the reality of your family?
 - c) If you're single and desire to have a family in the future, how can fighting for your relationship with Jesus prepare you to love your spouse and kids?
6. Our hope with the Stuck Together series is that instead of merely co-existing or surviving day to day, your family would flourish together as God intended! In order for that to happen, you need to live out of a Godly vision for your family. Below are several ways you can create and cultivate this Godly vision:

- Become fully engaged followers of Jesus Christ
- Be willing to do the hard/unpopular things that followers of Jesus are called to do
- Parent with a generational legacy in mind
- Stay plugged into God's family in God's house

Which of these ways would you like to either activate or “breathe new life into” as it relates to your own family? What step(s) can you take toward this preferred future? How can your Community Group support you?

TAKING IT HOME

7. Pastor Paul shared that a parent's ultimate calling is to gradually transfer a child's dependence away from them until it rests solely on God. Read Deuteronomy 6:1-7 together. What stands out to you from this passage? How do you seek to live out this commandment as a family?

Deuteronomy 6:1-7 (NIV) – ¹These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, ²so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. ³Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you. ⁴Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

8. Prayer Prompt | How can your Community Group pray for you and your family?

PRAYER REQUESTS

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RIVERS CROSSING - THINGS TO KNOW

1. 2024 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 apply for the Discipleship School, click on the link: <https://riverscrossing.com/discipleship-school/>
2. Stuck Together Podcast | If you're enjoying our Stuck Together sermon series on families and want to dive deeper, we encourage you to check out the companion podcast. The first episode - titled "The Elephant In The Room" - deals with conflict. Watch the podcast using this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ISkkui38ao>
3. Serve at Rivers Crossing | One of the marks of a fully engaged follower is their willingness to invest into God's kingdom with their time, talents, and resources. We have opportunities to serve all throughout the week! Find the team that's the right fit for you and partner with us to create an environment for people to become fully engaged followers of Jesus. Learn more at <https://riverscrossing.com/serve-here/>



COMMUNITY GROUPS

MISSION AND VISION

Groups Mission:

To provide people an opportunity to experience loving community as they pursue being a fully engaged follower of Christ.

Community Groups Vision:

To gather together regularly to share, study the Bible, and support one another. Community Groups are sermon-based, meaning they study a set of Bible passages and questions connected to the previous weekend's sermon.

Healthy Community Groups:

Community Groups are designed so that we can love and care for one another and put God's Word into action – all in pursuit of experiencing and living the extraordinary life. As you lead, keep the following in mind for evaluating the health of your group:

- **ENGAGE:** Groups are only successful when people invest their time and energy to genuinely engage the process by attending regularly, being honest, and developing relationship with other group members. This takes time, but it's worth it. | *Acts 2:42-27, Colossians 3:12-17*
- **ENCOURAGE:** One of the primary roles your group will play is in encouraging one another forward in your individual walks with Christ. This includes supporting one another through the messiness and trials of life.
 - *Hebrews 10: 23-25*
- **EQUIP:** Regularly encountering God's Word through the sermon, group discussion, and personal study will, over time, equip each group member to be a more fully engaged follower of Jesus. As this information permeates the heart, the Holy Spirit will provide application and personal growth.
 - *2 Timothy 3:16-17; John 14:25-26*
- **EMPOWER:** As your group meets, you will see some people naturally begin to exhibit spiritual gifts including leadership, shepherding, and hospitality. Be on the lookout for these developments. Empower these individuals to step into larger roles within the group, to consider leading or hosting their own group, or to serve where led. | *Ephesians 4:11-16; Philippians 3:10-14*
- **EXPAND:** As each member of your group begins to invest in their "8 to 15," it's natural for your group to add new members and to connect others into groups ministry. | *John 13:34-35*