

# Group Discussion Guide for Week of 9/8/2019

Riverside Home Group Discussion Guide

Scripture Text from Sunday Sermon; 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:1-4 (NIV)

<sup>1</sup> That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. <sup>2</sup> The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. <sup>3</sup> We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup> We write this to make our joy complete.

**Observation** (what does the text say?) **Interpretation** (what does it mean?) **Application** (what does it mean to me/us?)

## Discussion/Topic Starters (Ice Breakers)

- What are some of the things that you have seen and experienced that are part of the basis of your faith?
  - If someone asked why you believe in Jesus, what would you say?
- : What things in the text strike you or jump out at you? Why?

**Know** (what does the text say about God?) **Be** (what does it say about us?) **Do** (what does it call us to do?)

## v. 1-4

- : Before analyzing the phrases in this opening, summarize what these first 4 verses are all about.
  - : The original Greek as v.1-3 all as one sentence, with the subject and verb being “we proclaim.” What does John proclaim in these opening verses?
  - : John call's Jesus a few different things in this opening (ex. “word of life, eternal life,...”); what do these titles or descriptions reveal to us about Jesus? (**KNOW**)
  - !: Focus in on the beginning of v.2, in the NIV it says, “The life appeared”... why is it crucial that “the life appeared”?  
*Note: of the many things, don't miss that it restores both our fellowship with God as well as with each other (v.3)*
  - !: How does the content (reality) found in v.1-3 about Jesus (and us) make our “joy complete” in v.4? (**BE**)
  - A: In what ways have you, like John, seen, heard, and touched Jesus?  
Another way to ask: John was an eyewitness to Jesus (he had a personal testimony); how are you (or are you) qualified to also testify about Jesus, the “Word of life”? (**BE**)  
Follow-up: Who has been like the apostle John in your life – a person who has cared about your spiritual growth?
  - A: If you really embraced and lived like Jesus is the world of life and source of life, how would this PAST week have looked different for you?  
Follow-up: from what other sources do you seek life from besides Jesus?  
**Follow-up:** What can you (and us) do THIS week to get to know Jesus more, so that we can grow in confidence and ability to describe our relationship with Jesus the way that John describes here? (**DO**)  
**Follow-up:** Is there anything you would like the group to do to help you cooperate with God and get to know Jesus more this week? (**DO**)
- How WILL you respond this week? What one question do you want us to ask of you next week in regard to this?

## Recommended Follow-up:

- **Pray:** Pray together, and really focus in on that we are meeting with God, He's in the room, and He wants us to KNOW Him.
- **Respond:** Spend this week responding to God's word as fleshed out in the group time, as well as journey through this week's companion devotional guide.
- **Read:** Next week's sermon (9/15/19) will (likely) focus on Hebrews 10:19-25. Take time prior to next Sunday to read & study the passage, pray through the passage, meditate on the passage, as well as journey through this week's companion devotional guide.

## An explanation on how Riverside structures these discussion guides\*:

Riverside defines a disciple of Jesus as a **“Know, Be, Do”** person. And since Jesus told us to “make disciples” we use the “Know, Be, Do” framework in our discussion guides.

Riverside leadership regularly asks questions around these areas:

- “What do we need to **know** about God?”
- “Who do we need to **be**?”
- “What do we need to **do**?”

Here is what we mean by “Know, Be, Do” (based on Colossians 1:9-10, see below)

**Know** – *“to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives..., growing in the knowledge of God”* Not just knowing about Jesus, but knowing Him personally, intimately, and deeply. This is also about knowing the scriptures, knowing the voice of the Holy Spirit, even knowing yourself.

**Be** – *“so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way”* Becoming more like Jesus (sanctification). This is about our character and our heart and our motivations, our passions and convictions change the more we get to Know Jesus (and others).

**Do** – *“bearing fruit in every good work, ...”* Knowing Jesus and Becoming like Jesus practically will change our actions. As we grow in these areas we will naturally DO the things that Jesus did while in the flesh on earth (living and loving like Jesus). Some broad categories around DO are evangelism and justice and service.

Notice *“bearing fruit in every good work”* then yields more *“growing in the knowledge of God.”* In other words, while “Know, Be, Do” are three distinct words, they are deeply interconnected.

As a side note, the next chapter states: *“<sup>6</sup> So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, <sup>7</sup> rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. <sup>8</sup> See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ. (Col. 2:6-8)* To aid in this process Riverside also has a **daily devotional guide available each week**.

### Colossians 1:9-10, NIV

*For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God,...*

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\* As discussed in Riverside’s HGLT (Home Group Leader Training), these guides are to be starting points for home group leaders to develop their own guides and approaches to leading group discussions. This is a resource tool, not a rigid “go through this guide word-for-word.” There are intentionally too many questions for a single home group time. This guide relies heavily upon the following resources: Thomas, Mack. *The Complete Bible Discussion Guide: Old Testament and New Testament*, Serendipity Bible for Personal and Small Group Study, Zondervan