

**Know.**  
**Be. Do.**  
*...Together*

**DEVOTIONAL GUIDE**





Riversiders,

I am SO EXCITED about this September. As a church we get to celebrate our 10-year-anniversary and reflect on all the amazing things God has done in us and through us over these past 10-years. But as exciting as that is, the thing that has me most fired up is the future! God has been stirring our leadership for a while now, and we have been working on re-focusing as a church on how we make disciples, and this month we will be discussing that (sneak peak, “Know. Be. Do... *Together*” which will mean a lot by the end of this month).

The devotional you have in your hand is part of our refocusing effort. We really want Riverside to be more communal and intentional throughout the week with the Bible and prayer. One way to help drive this is to have a daily church devotional that we can go through together. This devotional was written in community (meaning it’s not just from me, a team of people put this together) and it’s meant to be processed through in community.

I picture many of us engaging with this resource through out days in the different spaces we find ourselves in. Some folks will go through it in the morning, some over lunch at work, some will process it with roommates over dinner, others will open it up late at night (not me on the last one, I’m in bed by 9:15pm every night 😊).

I picture it coming up in conversations, people asking one another what God is teaching them from today’s devotional/scripture reading. With that said, this is just a tool; God is the one that does the forming of us. I pray that the devotional in your hand helps you connect with God and with each other in a way that helps your hear the voice of God and be in a posture and position to receive what it is God has planned in you and through you.

Love you all!

Keith

Pastor/elder

P.S. The devotional is also available online at [riversidecommunity.org](http://riversidecommunity.org) and you can subscribe to receive it daily in your email box.



# WEEK 1: KNOW

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH, 2019  
SERMON NOTES

# JOHN CHAPTERS 14-17

We heard Keith speak yesterday on genuine knowing of the Father. I John 1:3 tells us that our fellowship is with the Father and the Son. This fellowship is unique for us as believers because of the gift of the Holy Spirit. As He indwells in someone who has “trusted in Jesus” (see doctrine box), He does many remarkable and predictable things in each of our lives. We are going to spend this week rooted in John’s Gospel listening to Jesus’ description of what the Holy Spirit is doing and providing for each of us!

Conversely, if you have not “trusted in Jesus,” the Holy Spirit does not indwell you and is not doing this work. Because you are sitting here, you’ve heard that Jesus wants a relationship with you personally. Consider KNOWING Him.



## DOCTRINE BOX

When we say “in Christ” or “faith in Jesus” or “salvation” we mean:

- Have you trusted that Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection is sufficient to remove your sins and separation from God?(1 Corinthians 15:17)
- Have you repented in a way that Jesus is now the boss of your life (aka, given allegiance to Jesus)? The word repent means to “turn around and head a different direction.” (Mark 1:15)
- If so, then you have been given the Holy Spirit and are sealed “in Christ” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

All of this is often summarized in the Bible as “To be IN CHRIST” (vs. to be separated from God because of sin). Titus 3:3-9 is a GREAT summary of “salvation” and what our response should be (towards God and towards the world) in light of God’s love and action.



## MONDAY: JOHN 14: 1-20

Stop, pray, and ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you from the text. Ask Him to help you engage with your mind and your heart. Remind yourself you are in God's presence and read the passage; notice how God might be speaking to you through His Word.

### Read John 14:1-20

If you peruse the previous chapter(s) of John's Gospel, you see that Jesus told the disciples some hard things: He is going to die, He is going to be betrayed, and that He is going away.

He then says "Don't let your hearts be troubled..."

- ② As you think about the transition for them in losing Jesus' physical presence, what kinds of things do you think would "trouble" them?
  
- ② What are the ways/phrases/truths Jesus uses to comfort them?
  
- ② What are some things you learn about Jesus' character from this passage?

Imagine the pain expressed in verse 18 in suddenly becoming an orphan. Confusion. Pain. Fear. Immobilization. We picture children in this situation and it is gut wrenching. But even as adults, we cling to being a part of a family. We can feel adrift without the sense of belonging that comes from a common last name.

- ② How has Jesus communicated "belonging" to your heart through this passage?

## TUESDAY: JOHN 14: 15-31

Stop, pray, and ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you from the text. Ask Him to help you engage with your mind and your heart. Remind yourself you are in God's presence and read the passage; notice how God might be speaking to you through His Word.

### Read John 14:15-31

- ② From this passage, what are the names and/or tasks that the Holy Spirit will help us with?
  
- ② If the Holy Spirit brings truth to us, what are some of the current lies you are facing in your life? (In my life I have struggled to believe that I matter to people, that I am valuable...)
  
- ② How have you seen believing these lies impact your life? (For me, because I can believe that I am not valuable, I can tell myself that I deserve poor treatment)
  
- ② The Holy Spirit seems to be so personal and intimate with us: whispering truth, gently reminding, soothing us with peacefulness. How does it feel to know that Jesus sends us someone who knows us so intimately? What does that communicate about Him?
  
- ② How do you feel about your love being tied to something that you do versus something that you say? What's challenging about that?



## WEDNESDAY: JOHN 15: 1-17

Now that we've read that the Holy Spirit reminds us and teaches us truth, it makes sense that we would want to ask Him to help us when we sit down to read and understand scripture.

Sit quietly for a few moments being still before the Lord. If your mind wanders, and it will, just bring it back. Start with two or three minutes just enjoying His presence. He enjoys your presence immensely.

### Read John 15: 1-17

- ② In this passage, we learn that Jesus is the vine (v.1); the Father is the gardener (v.1); we are the branches (v.5); love is the fruit (v.12). What does life look like for the average branch?
  
- ② What has pruning looked like in your life?
  
- ② What do you think “remaining” looks like?
  
- ② As you reflect on the past several days, what areas can you honestly say you ARE “remaining in with Jesus” and what areas are you NOT “remaining in with Jesus”?
  
- ② Jesus calls you His friend, and also explains that He chose you specifically. What feelings does this bring up in you?



If our loving one another is the actual fruit we are bearing, ask yourself a couple hard questions:

- ② Are there people I don't love well in my life?
  
- ② Who am I loving well right now?
  
- ② What pieces of me make it harder for me to genuinely love others and what am I doing to change those things?

✍ Below is a picture of the vine and branches. Embed the image of the branch needing to be attached to the vine.



🎧 On June 2nd Keith & Susan preached a sermon on this passage you might enjoy!

<http://riversidecommunity.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/190602.mp3>

## THURSDAY: JOHN 15:18-16:4

Hopefully you are getting into the habit of asking the Holy Spirit to teach you as you sit down to read. Pray now.

### Read John 15:18-16:4

② In 16:1, Jesus says, “All this I have told you so that you will not go astray.” In what we’ve read so far this week, what would make the disciples lose heart and potentially go astray?

② What situations in your life have caused deep questioning of your faith in you?

② How did you process through these situations, or have you processed through them?

✍ Certainly there are hard and unexplainable situations around all of us that cause deep pangs. Has there been a time you have suffered for doing what was right and good to do? Share:

② How does Jesus’ warning encourage you?

□ This passage was written to the disciples (plural) and not just one person (not just “me and Jesus”). Today, call/email/text one person in response to today’s reading as a means of being an encouragement to a brother or sister in Christ that might need.

## FRIDAY: JOHN 16:5-16

In the previous devotional pages from Jonah, we got used to answering the questions:

**KNOW** (what does the text say about God?)

**BE** (What does the text say about us?)

**DO** (what is the text calling me to do?)

Take time today to think through those questions from this passage.

### Read John 16:5-16

 KNOW:

 BE:


 DO:

## SATURDAY: JOHN 14-17

Take a long slow read through these chapters. Perhaps use a Bible app and have them read to you.

### Read John 14-17

 Pray along with Jesus in chapter 17.

 Write out a prayer of your own asking the Holy Spirit to continue His work in you:

## SUNDAY:

As we did on Wednesday, spend some time just sitting with the Lord. If you are a visual person, picture walking with Jesus in your favorite place, sitting with Him and just being together.

Sit quietly, if your mind wanders, just gently bring it back. It's not a rigid time, just learning to be quiet and enjoy Jesus.

Remember that...

*He is crazy about you.*

*He loves you completely and sees all the good/bad & ugly.*

*He is waiting for you when you wake up.*

*He enjoys just relaxing with you, No agenda, no schedule, just you.*



# WEEK 2: BE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2019  
SERMON NOTES

# EPHESIANS CHAPTER 1

This week we are following up after hearing Keith explain (Sunday sermon) how we are to “BE transformed by the Spirit.” I hope you enjoyed last weeks study of the work of the Spirit in each of our lives.

This week, we are going to spend time looking at what BEcomes true of us after we “trust in Christ” (see doctrine box).

We are also going to invite you to memorize verses 3-14 during the course of this week and spilling into the following weeks- depending on the pace you enjoy!

If you did not get a bookmark at church yesterday with these verses, email Barb at [barb@riversidecommunity.org](mailto:barb@riversidecommunity.org) and ask her, she’d love to send you one!



## DOCTRINE BOX

When we say “in Christ” or “faith in Jesus” or “salvation” we mean:

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- Have you repented in a way that Jesus is now the boss of your life (aka, given allegiance to Jesus)? The word repent means to “turn around and head a different direction.” (Mark 1:15)
- If so, then you have been given the Holy Spirit and are sealed “in Christ” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

All of this is often summarized in the Bible as “To be IN CHRIST” (vs. to be separated from God because of sin). Titus 3:3-9 is a GREAT summary of “salvation” and what our response should be (towards God and towards the world) in light of God’s love and action.




## MONDAY: EPHESIANS : 1:1-3

Start out the morning listening to the song *Boldy I Approach* from Rend Collective. Remember that we can approach His throne boldly during this time and throughout the day because we are “in Christ”. You can listen to the song on YouTube by using the URL below:

 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4QDnVD7gu5Y>

### Read Ephesians 1:1-3

Take some time today with these following questions after reading:

 KNOW (what does the text say about God?)

 BE (What does the text say about us?)

 DO (what is the text calling me to do?)




## TUESDAY: EPHESIANS 1:4-5

Remember to take some time to sit, pray, and center your focus on being with Jesus. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you read. Recite these verses as you work to memorize them.

### Read Ephesians 1:4-5


Today we are going to look up some definitions to really begin to grasp all that has been done on our behalf and the huge transformation that begins in us the moment we give Christ our allegiance.

 Define the following words (you may need to look them up):

- *Chosen:*
- *Holy:*
- *Blameless:*
- *Predestined:*
- *Adopted:*

② When were you chosen to be adopted as His own?

② Why does it say in verse 5 that He chose to do this?

 Sit and meditate on the phrase, “I being God pleasure by being a part of His family.”

*Give some time throughout today working on memorizing these verses.*

## WEDNESDAY: EPHESIANS 1:6-8

Remember to take some time to sit, pray, and center your focus on being with Jesus. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you read.

### Read Ephesians 1:6:8

Recite these verses out loud as you work to memorize them.

 Some more definitions!

- *Grace:*


- *Redemption:*

- *Forgiveness:*

② Why do you think that God offers His grace freely?

② Have you seen examples of that around you?

② How is the word “lavish” different from “freely”? Why do you think Paul (who wrote Ephesians) reemphasizes grace with the word “lavishly”?

 Sit and meditate on the phrase, “God reaches out to hold me with lavish grace”.

# THURSDAY: EPHESIANS 1: 9-10

## Read Ephesians 1:9-10

② How has Christ made the mystery of His will known to you? How does this work?

② How, in your life today, can you work to bring the things around you and in you “under one head”?

② What areas of your life are not currently under His headship? Where is He not the boss of your life?

② Why have you resisted His leading here? (I think it’s helpful for me to understand what is motivating my being my own boss...)

👉 Who around you can you ask to hold you accountable in bringing this area under His headship? (assuming you want to do that).

👉 Spend some time sitting and asking the Holy Spirit to show you areas that He would like control of.





## SATURDAY: EPHESIANS 1: 13-14

### Read Ephesians 1:13-14

Here it is again - “in Christ”.

*We heard the word of truth.  
We believed in this word.  
We were marked with a seal.*

*This is exciting stuff!*

② What do you think we stand to inherit from being in God’s family as a son or daughter?


② How does it make you feel to know that you were ‘included’? What kinds of thoughts does that word bring up for you?

📖 Spend some time sitting quietly and reflecting on how incredible it is that God sought you out, pursued you, and wanted you to be His own.


*Give some time throughout today working on memorizing these verses.*



## SUNDAY: EPHESIANS 1: 1-14

 Write out these 14 verses here: (this will also help with your memorizing!)

## SUNDAY: EPHESIANS 1: 1-14

 Spend some time praying and thanking God for the phrases and actions that pop out to you. Space is provided on this page to write them down as they come to you.



# WEEK 3: DO

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22ND, 2019  
SERMON NOTES



## DANIEL OVERVIEW

As Keith preached from the book of James on allowing/conforming our actions to accurately reflect our words of faith, I was reminded of Daniel in the Bible.


Daniel is thrust into an extremely hard situation where he could have had many reasons to just fall in-line with those around him instead of continuing to worship God with his heart and actions.



## MONDAY: DANIEL OVERVIEW

Head to the link below and watch the video explaining the book of Daniel. It will be a great overview before we launch into reading some chapters during the week.

 <https://thebibleproject.com/explore/daniel/>

 Once you do that, pray... Pray to God based on what you learned from this overview of the book of Daniel.

# TUESDAY: DANIEL CHAPTER 1

Hopefully, watching the video yesterday gave us all some context for what Daniel and his three friends were dragged into.

## Read Daniel Chapter 1

② From the narrative in chapter 1, describe Daniel's character? What do we learn about him?

② What from Daniel's character stands out to you, or pops out as something you would like to be said about you?

✎ The word "resolve" means: to decide firmly on a course of action; resolute; single-minded; a firm determination to do something. In your life, what are your "resolves"?

⊗ Stop, pray and ask the Holy Spirit to impress on your heart/mind things that He would want you to resolve spiritually in the next few weeks.



## WEDNESDAY: DANIEL CHAPTER 2


### Read Daniel Chapter 2

Verses 17-18 show Daniel asking his friends to pray for understanding the mystery of the dream. We also need understanding- so pray and ask the Holy Spirit to open your eyes and heart to the text today.

I think it's funny that Nebuchadnezzar 'resolves' in verse 5 to not reveal the dream. He and Daniel both making resolves!

② What do you learn about Daniel's character from this chapter?

② What do you learn about God from this text?

 Spend some time praying about how, in your daily life, you could be a witness that causes someone to exclaim, "surely your God is the God of gods..." Ask God to give you the desire for that to be true in your life.

# THURSDAY: DANIEL CHAPTER 3

## Read Daniel Chapter 3


Now we get to learn a bit more about Daniel's three friends and what stuff they are made of. I always think it's interesting that Daniel gets to be the "famous one" and have the book in his name. But he is surrounded by some cool men.

- ② What do you learn about the character of these three young men?
  
- ② What do you learn about God and who He is from this chapter?
  
- ② How do you think that the community of the four of them (including Daniel) there in Babylon impacts how they live?
  
- ✎ What does community look like for you right now? Who are your "three friends" (figurative- you don't have to actually a specific number!) that surround you with strong witness and courage?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- ② Spend some time thanking the Lord for the list above. Thank Him for His provision of people in your life. Ask Him if there is a void or people in your life. Search your heart about the person you are to the people around you.

 Pray for our community of believers at Riverside.

## FRIDAY: DANIEL CHAPTER 4

### Read Daniel Chapter 4

- ② Explain what happens in this chapter?
  
- ② Why do you think God delays a year (vs 28) in the fulfillment?
  
- ② What were Neb's "sins"?
  
- ② From verses 35 and 37 specifically - what can we learn about who God is?
  
- ② Are there things that trouble you as you think about "God doing as He pleases"? Do you feel able to trust Him in this?
  
-  Spend some time seeking the Lord and specifically asking if there are areas of mistrust in you towards Him.
  
- ② Have there been times you were angry about His ways?
  
- ② How have you seen Him to be "right and just"? Thank Him for those things.

# SATURDAY: DANIEL CHAPTER 5

## Read Daniel Chapter 5

Remember in school when you would read something and answer standard questions? Well, from this narrative, answer the classic WWWWW questions:

- *Who:*
- *What:*
- *When:*
- *Where:*
- *Why:*

The knowledge that my days are numbered is very sobering to me. Especially knowing that I do not control the numbering of them. Pause and listen to one of the following songs:

 *Teach Us to Number Our Days*


[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7QaPS\\_Gp2U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7QaPS_Gp2U)

(The song is old style- but the lyrics are incredible)

 *Blink*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v4itARWKR-A>

(this one is more modern!)

 Spend some time asking the Lord to give you some global perspective on your life. To show you how your days have been ordered until now. Prayer for the days going forward that you might life with wisdom.

# SUNDAY: DANIEL CHAPTER 6

## Read Daniel Chapter 6

Ahhhh, we've all been waiting for this familiar chapter.

❓ What do we learn about Daniel's character from this chapter?

Whenever I read this chapter, two questions come to my mind, so we will just think on these two:

❓ Daniel had a specific "rhythm of life" with his praying and worshipping of God. What is the rhythm of your spiritual life?

❓ What practices are routine for you to ensure that you stay connected to the vine?



## SUNDAY: DANIEL CHAPTER 6

God comes in and rescues Daniel from the lion, just like he rescued a few chapters earlier from the furnace.

② What happens in your life when God allows the pain to roll in, when He doesn't "rescue" in the way that we envision?

② How do we feel about Him in those moments?

📖 Spend some time preparing your heart for the worship service. Sit quietly again and just be with Jesus.



# WEEK 4: TOGETHER

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH, 2019  
SERMON NOTES

## ACTS OVERVIEW


As Keith preached on Sunday from Galatians ch.6, our journey of faith must be rooted in community, there are no lone-rangers in the Kingdom of God. Because of that, this week we will journey through some passages from Acts that talk about the early church and how they lived out their faith together, in community.



## MONDAY: ACTS CHAPTER 1-2

### Read Acts Chapters 1 & 2

In chapter 1 we see how the believers waited together for the promised Holy Spirit. After looking at all that the Holy Spirit does for us in our studies through John a couple weeks back, it is hard to imagine a life without the Spirit to guide, lead, teach, and comfort. Pray before you begin and ask Him to teach you as you read.

- ② What kinds of things is Peter explaining in this chapter?
  
- ② The new church that grew out of these messages was a bit large (v41). From verses 42-47, what kinds of things characterized them when they gathered together in groups?
  
- ② Which of these pops out to you?
  
- ② Which of these do you see here at Riverside?
  
- ② What do you not see amongst us?
  
-  Their becoming a community, the way that they lived out their spiritual community, changed their physical surrounding community. Spend some time praying that we as a body of believers would impact the city of South Bend.

# TUESDAY: ACTS CHAPTER 4

## Read Acts Chapter 4

- ② Peter again is explaining some truth. What stands out to you from what he shares?
  
- ② From verse 32-37, what characterized their fellowship? Which of these traits pop out to you?
  
- ② How hard would it be for your possessions to be common with others?
  
- ② Potentially, what does this demonstration of needing each other / supplying needs communicate to the world around us?
  
- ② How comfortable are you with the idea of needing others? What's hard about this for you?
  
- 📖 Sit quietly and ask the Lord to show you areas where you need to grow in either meeting the needs of others, or allowing others to meet your needs.

## WEDNESDAY: ACTS CHAPTER 6

### Read Acts Chapter 6

The previous readings could give us the idea that this new fellowship of believers just coasted through relationships. But here in chapter 6 we see some racial tension arising. Though it seems to start from the desire to meet the needs of the widows, it goes south a bit...

- ② What's happening?
- ② What is cool about the way that the conflict gets solved?
- ② What is the community response to this?
- ② Are there areas of racial division in our body here at Riverside?
- 🏠 Are there biases that YOU hold in your heart? And before you automatically think, “no way!” really sit and ask the Holy Spirit to show you your heart.
- 🙏 Spend today doing this one thing: pray and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you hidden biases against people “not like you.” Genuinely let Him speak to you deep inside. Desire “truth in your inmost parts” and the Holy Spirit will speak.
- 👉 If there are specific areas the Holy Spirit identifies, you should share that with someone else. Call them, text them, email them, let someone else in your life know what the Lord identified and ask them to help you grow in Christ-likeness.

# THURSDAY: ACTS CHAPTER 8

## Read Acts Chapter 8

In this chapter, we see horrible persecution scattering the church far and wide. Work through the following questions after you pray and ask for the Spirit to give wisdom.

**KNOW** (what does the text say about God?)

**BE** (What does the text say about us?)


**DO** (what is the text calling me to do?)

Take time today to think through those questions from this passage.

 KNOW:

 BE:

 DO:

 Do you sense the Lord saying anything to you today?

## FRIDAY: ACTS CHAPTER 10

### Read Acts Chapter 10


Again, we see some racial issues in this text, some issues of prejudicial thinking, and some stretching thoughts about who and how God reaches out to.


- ② As you prayed and pondered a couple days ago, did the Holy Spirit bring to mind any issues of bias or prejudice in your heart?
  
- ② From Cornelius' perspective - explain what's happening and how you think he might be feeling?
  
- ② Same for Peter - explain what's happening and how you think he might be feeling?
  
- ② What do we learn about God's character from this chapter?
  
- ② What do we observe in Peter that can be a model for us?
  
- 🙏 Sit and ask the Holy Spirit to show you some "next steps" after meditating on this passage.




## SATURDAY: REFLECTION AND REVIEW

We are going to walk back through the last four weeks today and tomorrow so we can really “mine” this series for what we have seen, read, learned, and come to believe. And then, because what we believe is always worked out in how we live, we are going to, like Daniel, make some resolutions for our daily lives. Today we will focus on the Know and the Be.


 Look back through all the pages and pull out things that you came to **KNOW** about God and His character. Take your time and really list it out:


 Now scroll back through and write out the **BE** aspects you saw: ways that you are becoming more like Christ, parts of your life that were challenged to be transformed.

 Spend some time thanking the Lord for each part of His character that was revealed and for each piece of yourself that He is patiently transforming!

## SUNDAY: REFLECTION AND REVIEW

Today, before you begin, take some time to just sit and be quiet before the Lord. Perhaps listen to some worship, or even some nature sounds. Just sit. No agenda. Just time to enjoy.

 Now, look back through these pages and write out the things that you were prompted to **DO**. As you sort through this list, pray and ask the Spirit to have some “pop out” for you as resolutions that you want to become part of your character and life. List those here:

 We are designed for the Together, the community, the fellowship of believers. Who is someone you can share these resolutions with for some accountability in your life?

*Prepare yourself to worship and learn as you head to church this morning.*





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**Know. Be. Do...** *Together*

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