

# **Group Discussion Guide for Week of 12/06/2021**

Riverside Home Group Discussion Guide

Scripture Text to accompany the themes of the Sunday Sermon; *Isaiah 2:1-6 (NIV)*

**2** This is what Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem:

<sup>2</sup>In the last days the mountain of the Lord's temple will be established as the highest of the mountains; it will be exalted above the hills, and all nations will stream to it.

<sup>3</sup>Many peoples will come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the temple of the God of Jacob. He will teach us his ways, so that we may walk in his paths."

The law will go out from Zion, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

<sup>4</sup>He will judge between the nations and will settle disputes for many peoples. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. <sup>5</sup>Come, descendants of Jacob, let us walk in the light of the Lord.

## **General Question Bank**

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

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

**Together** (What is our communal identity/response according to the passage/Holy Spirit?)

## **Discussion/Topic Starter** (Ice Breaker)

- In his sermon, Keith spoke humorously about how often when we ask for peace and quiet, all we really want is quiet! How about the opposite? Can you think of a time when you've experienced real peace in the middle of chaos and noise? Share your experience(s).

## **Isaiah 2:1-5**

O: What things in the text strike you or jump out at you? Why?

*\*\*\*Another way to ask: "Choose one verse or phrase from the passage that stands out to you. This could be something you're intrigued by, something that makes you uncomfortable, something that puzzles you, something that resonates with you, or just something you want to examine further." Now share it with the group*

O: As you read vs. 1-2, notice the characters and setting of the passage. Be especially mindful of the "who, where, and when" of the passage. What is significant about the "who" of the passage? The "where"? The "when"?

O: What will "many peoples" ask of God when they come to the Lord's temple? (v. 3)

O: What will God do for "many peoples" according to v. 4?

I: As you think about the peace that Christ has come to bring into the world, how do you see it correlate to the vision of v. 4? How might you account for the significant lack of peace that we are experiencing today?

I: What does it look like to "walk in the light of the Lord"? (v. 5) How does the vision of vs. 1-4 contribute to our vision of what it means to walk in the Lord's light?

A: Does walking in the light of the Lord include living toward God's vision of peace? What's one way you can live toward God's shalom this week?

A: Where do you need the intervention of God and his people to bring shalom to your life? Take time to pray for one another over these areas.

**-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. Pray together, spend some time being silent.

**Respond:** Spend this week responding to God's word as fleshed out in the group time, as well as journey through this week's 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. We believe the process for this transformation happens in community, hence the **“Together”** part of the Riverside mission as well.

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**?”
- **“Together**, what is our communal identity/response according to the passage/Holy Spirit?”

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 was created in consultation with [Acts, N. T. Wright for Everyone Bible Study Guides](#); [Acts, Life Change Series](#); [Acts: Seeing the Spirit at Work, John Stott Bible Studies](#), [Book of Acts, Life Lessons with Max Lucado](#).