

## **HG Discussion Guide**

(for Relaunching Point on May 5, 2024)

Before diving in, what excites you most about these five priorities for Riverside? Did anything from Sunday's conversation stir hopefulness or excitement in you?

### ***Cultivation of Wisdom and Wonder***

- “Neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow.” (1 Corinthians 3:7)
- Life with Riverside Church should lead to wisdom and wonder—heads and hearts ever growing in knowledge of God and growing capacity to be dazzled by God and his creation.
- First steps:
  - Sermon Series: “Wisdom and Wonder in the Psalms” (summer 2024)
  - “Wonder Wall” gathering pictures, stories, delights, and wonders (summer 2024)

Discussion Questions: Where has God been cultivating wisdom and wonder in your life currently? Or how do you hope to engage with this idea of “wisdom and wonder” in the future?

### ***Journeying Side by Side in the Way of Jesus***

- “And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others.” (2 Timothy 2:2)
- As disciples—followers—of Jesus, we practice the way of Jesus (being with Jesus, becoming like Jesus, doing as Jesus did), and we do it side by side, journeying together.
- First steps:
  - Women’s Retreat Day (May 18)
  - One Book Riverside—“Practicing the Way” by John Mark Comer (summer 2024)

Discussion Questions: Where have you seen this kind of journeying together show up in your life? How has being in community with other Christians shaped your faith?

### ***Whole Family Formation***

- “There is one body and one Spirit...one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all.” (Ephesians 4:5-6)
- No matter how many are in your household (from 1 to 100!), it is a part of the larger family of God in Christ. Our shared life at Riverside bridges these two families—our households and the body of Christ.
- First steps:
  - Rides to church for Ray Bird campers (get training on June 9 or 16)
  - “Whole Family Discipleship” learning community (Fall 2024)

- An intentional learning plan and milestones for kids and youth being formed in our community (2024-2025)

Discussion Questions: Is there one of these “next steps” that excites you about whole family formation? Are there other ways you’ve seen this mission priority practiced?

### **Restoration of the Vulnerable**

- “Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”  
(James 1:27)
- We shine the light of Christ among those most vulnerable to the darkness, actively serving in our community and strategically partnering with local and global partners.
- First steps:
  - “Justice” learning community (April-May 2024) and white paper
  - Week of serving at Camp Ray Bird July 15-19
  - Consider joining an upcoming Back 2 Back or Asha trip

Discussion Questions: Where have you seen signs of God’s restoration around you? How are you being invited into God’s vision of restoring the vulnerable?

### **City Connection**

- “...seek the peace and prosperity of the city” (*Jeremiah 29:7*)
- Riverside Church can be “the best friend South Bend ever had.” Both physically and missionally anchored to the Beacon, we invite people in and we go out, serve hands-on, and throw lavish support behind creative partners.
- First steps:
  - Front line of support for all things Beacon (Chippewa Bowl fundraiser August 10)
  - Summer/Fall support events for our neighborhood schools, Coquillard and Dickinson

Discussion Questions: What does it mean to “seek the peace and prosperity” of our city? In your immediate context, what imagination do you have for doing this in your own neighborhood or community?