

## **Group Discussion Guide for Week of 6/9/2024**

Riverside Home Group Discussion Guide

Scripture Text to accompany the themes of the Sunday Sermon; *Psalm 36*

1 I have a message from God in my heart  
concerning the sinfulness of the wicked.

There is no fear of God  
before their eyes.

2 In their own eyes they flatter themselves  
too much to detect or hate their sin.

3 The words of their mouths are wicked and deceitful;  
they fail to act wisely or do good.

4 Even on their beds they plot evil;  
they commit themselves to a sinful course  
and do not reject what is wrong.

5 Your love, Lord, reaches to the heavens,  
your faithfulness to the skies.

6 Your righteousness is like the highest mountains,  
your justice like the great deep.  
You, Lord, preserve both people and animals.

7 How priceless is your unfailing love, O God!  
People take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

8 They feast on the abundance of your house;  
you give them drink from your river of delights.

9 For with you is the fountain of life;  
in your light we see light.

10 Continue your love to those who know you,  
your righteousness to the upright in heart.

11 May the foot of the proud not come against me,  
nor the hand of the wicked drive me away.

12 See how the evildoers lie fallen—  
thrown down, not able to rise!

### **General Question Bank**

**O**bservation (what does the text say?) **I**nterpretation (what does it mean?) **A**pplication (what does it mean to me/us?)

**K**now (what does the text say about God?) **B**e (what does it say about us?) **D**o (what does it call us to do?)

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

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

What is the last time you were surprised by something amazing? Have you gasped in awe? Cried tears of deep joy and resonance? Clapped your hands or smiled with delight? What prompted these reactions?

Psalm 36

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: The Psalmist describes clear differences between the “wicked” and the Lord. What are these characteristics of each party? How does the language change when shifting attention to God’s character?
- I: There is a lot of body language (mouth/eyes/foot/etc.) used in this Psalm – how might that be significant?
- I: We see beautiful, promised-filled language as we reread verses 8 and 9. But it’s also a bit ambiguous. What do you think the Psalmist is referring to when he use phrases like “abundance of your house”, “river of delights”, or “in your light we see light”?
- A: Where is it easiest for you to practice this phrase: “in your light we see light?” Where do you naturally get amazed or where do you see God as big or vast?
- A: In the past, how have you grown in wisdom? Can you see any connection to this idea of God’s love shaping our vision for wisdom and wonder?
- A: As you head into this next week, watch for the light! Ask God to open your eyes to his *hesed* love – his mercy, kindness, faithfulness and beyond.

-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<sup>1</sup>:**

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,...*