

Group Discussion Guide for Week of 6/30/2024

Riverside Home Group Discussion Guide

Scripture Text to accompany the themes of the Sunday Sermon; *Psalm 91*

Psalm 91

- 1 *Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High
will rest in the shadow of the Almighty.[a]*
- 2 *I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust."*
- 3 *Surely he will save you
from the fowler's snare
and from the deadly pestilence.*
- 4 *He will cover you with his feathers,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart.*
- 5 *You will not fear the terror of night,
nor the arrow that flies by day,
6 nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,
nor the plague that destroys at midday.*
- 7 *A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.*
- 8 *You will only observe with your eyes
and see the punishment of the wicked.*
- 9 *If you say, "The Lord is my refuge,"
and you make the Most High your dwelling,
10 no harm will overtake you,
no disaster will come near your tent.*
- 11 *For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways;
12 they will lift you up in their hands,
so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.*
- 13 *You will tread on the lion and the cobra;
you will trample the great lion and the serpent.*
- 14 *"Because he[b] loves me," says the Lord, "I will rescue him;
I will protect him, for he acknowledges my name.*
- 15 *He will call on me, and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble,
I will deliver him and honor him.*
- 16 *With long life I will satisfy him
and show him my salvation."*

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)

What is a simple chore or practice that has brought you joy recently? Anything mundane or ordinary that has allowed you to see God differently?

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: There is a lot of descriptive language in this psalm. Though they are not explicitly stated each time, what are attributes of God you see in this description of him?

I: Psalm 91 is a psalm written in future tense, a psalm of promises. How is this psalmist so certain of God's promises?

I: How does the psalmist acknowledge trust in the midst of fear? What does he do to remind us of God's care?

A: What is a practice of reflection, specifically reflecting on God's faithfulness, that you have practiced or want to practice in the future?

A: What kind of curiosity about the future is developing these days? How might "practicing the presence of God" help you as you move towards the future?

A: How are you calling on God right now? What are you seeking God about and how is God's faithfulness showing up? Does it feel nearby, far off, steady, etc.?

-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 guides¹:

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: *⁶So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. ⁸See 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,...