

## **Group Discussion Guide for Week of 7/14/2024**

Riverside Home Group Discussion Guide

Scripture Text to accompany the themes of the Sunday Sermon; *Psalm 68*

- 1 *May God arise, may his enemies be scattered;  
may his foes flee before him.*
- 2 *May you blow them away like smoke—  
as wax melts before the fire,  
may the wicked perish before God.*
- 3 *But may the righteous be glad  
and rejoice before God;  
may they be happy and joyful.*
- 4 *Sing to God, sing in praise of his name,  
extol him who rides on the clouds[b];  
rejoice before him—his name is the Lord.*
- 5 *A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows,  
is God in his holy dwelling.*
- 6 *God sets the lonely in families,[c]  
he leads out the prisoners with singing;  
but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land.*
- 7 *When you, God, went out before your people,  
when you marched through the wilderness,[d]*
- 8 *the earth shook, the heavens poured down rain,  
before God, the One of Sinai,  
before God, the God of Israel.*
- 9 *You gave abundant showers, O God;  
you refreshed your weary inheritance.*
- 10 *Your people settled in it,  
and from your bounty, God, you provided for the poor.*
- 11 *The Lord announces the word,  
and the women who proclaim it are a mighty throng:*
- 12 *“Kings and armies flee in haste;  
the women at home divide the plunder.*
- 13 *Even while you sleep among the sheep pens,[e]  
the wings of my dove are sheathed with silver,  
its feathers with shining gold.”*
- 14 *When the Almighty[f] scattered the kings in the land,  
it was like snow fallen on Mount Zalmon.*
- 15 *Mount Bashan, majestic mountain,  
Mount Bashan, rugged mountain,*
- 16 *why gaze in envy, you rugged mountain,  
at the mountain where God chooses to reign,  
where the Lord himself will dwell forever?*
- 17 *The chariots of God are tens of thousands  
and thousands of thousands;  
the Lord has come from Sinai into his sanctuary.[g]*

18 When you ascended on high,  
you took many captives;  
you received gifts from people,  
even from[h] the rebellious—  
that you,[i] Lord God, might dwell there.

19 Praise be to the Lord, to God our Savior,  
who daily bears our burdens.

20 Our God is a God who saves;  
from the Sovereign Lord comes escape from death.

21 Surely God will crush the heads of his enemies,  
the hairy crowns of those who go on in their sins.

22 The Lord says, "I will bring them from Bashan;

I will bring them from the depths of the sea,  
23 that your feet may wade in the blood of your foes,  
while the tongues of your dogs have their share."

24 Your procession, God, has come into view,  
the procession of my God and King into the sanctuary.

25 In front are the singers, after them the musicians;  
with them are the young women playing the timbrels.

26 Praise God in the great congregation;  
praise the Lord in the assembly of Israel.

27 There is the little tribe of Benjamin, leading them,  
there the great throng of Judah's princes,  
and there the princes of Zebulun and of Naphtali.

28 Summon your power, God[j];  
show us your strength, our God, as you have done before.

29 Because of your temple at Jerusalem  
kings will bring you gifts.

30 Rebuke the beast among the reeds,  
the herd of bulls among the calves of the nations.

Humbled, may the beast bring bars of silver.  
Scatter the nations who delight in war.

31 Envoys will come from Egypt;  
Cush[k] will submit herself to God.

32 Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth,  
sing praise to the Lord,

33 to him who rides across the highest heavens, the ancient heavens,  
who thunders with mighty voice.

34 Proclaim the power of God,  
whose majesty is over Israel,  
whose power is in the heavens.

35 You, God, are awesome in your sanctuary;  
the God of Israel gives power and strength to his people.

*Praise be to God!*

## **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 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: Consider the many descriptions of God in this Psalm. What does this Psalm tell us about God's character?

I: The first part of the Psalm refers to God's enemies – who are God's enemies or foes?

I: In verses 19-23, who is the "actor" or "do-er" in this section? What does this tell us about our relationship with God and our enemies?

A: This Psalm invites us to see God's heart for the vulnerable – how is God's care for the vulnerable (the fatherless, the widow, etc.) shaping your own view of those in need of care?

A: Where have you seen God put you into a broader family? In other words, where have you seen God put "the lonely in families"?

A: If God, in his power and authority and care, promises to justly deal with our enemies, how are we responding to our enemies? And practically speaking, who are our enemies? Who are we being called to entrust to God's authority and justice?

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,...*