



Small Group Discussion Guide

Ice Breaker: What do you like the most about fall? The weather, the leaves changing, fantasy football?

Instructions: If your group meets bi-weekly, do **3 & 4**.

1. How long have you attended Riverside Church? What/who brought you here? What keeps you coming back? How has your family been impacted by Riverside? Have you invited anyone else to attend (including Christmas and Easter)? How did you invite them? What was the result?
2. At Riverside, we call our core values **The BIG 3**. They are the 3 things we believe every Riversider benefits from prioritizing in their life. They are: *Come Every Weekend, Be Part of a Group* and *Serve Others*. Joining a journey group is a great step to take! Is this your first time in a group? For those who have been in a small group before, how did your small group impact your life? For everyone in the group, what are you excited about? What makes you nervous?
3. Many small groups at Riverside choose to use our Discussion Guide, which gives everyone another opportunity to review the message given on Sunday. This Sunday Tom stated that, "God designed us to be non-conformists." Read Romans 12:2. What does it mean to be a non-conformist? How does the act of setting goals allow us to become non-conformists? What were some of the goals Jesus had? What were some of the goals Paul had? Why are goals good for us?
4. Pastor Tom explained that God gives us gifts to help us reach our goals. Review your message notes: What 3 gifts does God give us? Read Zechariah 4:6b, Joshua 1:8, and Ecclesiastes 4:12. How do these gifts empower us to reach our goals? How will being part of a small group allow God to transform you?

Personal Guide for Week of September 10th

Read the introduction in *Transformed* pages ii-vii. Pray for God to use this journey in your life to help transform you from the inside out.

TRANSFORMED

Message Notes & Small Group Discussion

Can I Be Transformed?
September 10, 2017



“Can I Be Transformed?”
[Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

Note Romans 12:2

God designed us to be non-_____.

This spiritual journey is about your _____ and possibilities (making the best of the _____ of your life).

What does God tell us about setting _____?

1. Why Are Goals in God’s _____ for Life Transformation?

Because:

- A. Setting Goals is a _____ Activity—_____ set goals. _____ had goals (note John 18:37; Luke 9:51; 19:10). _____ had goals (note Philippians 3:12-15). We either go through life by design or _____. Without goals, other people and c_____ will decide for us.
- B. Goals Express _____ - goals are statements of _____ that stretch our faith (note Hebrews 11:6; Romans 14:23b; Ephesians 3:20). We often set goals too _____ and try to reach them too soon. The difference between a _____ and a goal? Set a d_____.
Note Matthew 9:27-29.
- C. Goals Give _____ - God doesn’t expect us to do _____ (note Philippians 3:13). Life can be spent, wasted, or _____. Note I Corinthians 9:26.
- D. Goals _____ - Note Hebrews 12:2. Goals give _____. Long-term goals help us to not surrender to short-term s_____.
- E. Goals Develop C_____ - while we work on good goals, God works _____ and _____ us. Note Philippians 3:12. Takes _____ and intentionality.
- F. _____ Goals Are Rewarded (note Proverbs 11:27a) - God didn’t put us here just to make money and _____...the greatest rewards are _____ (note I Corinthians 9:25-26a).

2. How Do We Set “_____” Goals?

- A. Will it _____ God? - Note I Corinthians 6:20; 10:31; II Corinthians 5:9
- B. Is it motivated by _____? - Note I Corinthians 14:1a; 16:14. _____ matters. Otherwise we treat people as _____.
- C. Will it require _____? - Note Proverbs 16:9

3. God’s _____ That Help Us Reach Our Goals

- A. The Holy Spirit—not based on _____ power, but God’s power (note Zechariah 4:6b).
- B. God’s _____ - the more we become _____ followers of Jesus, the more truth we’ll know, and the more confidence we can experience as we navigate through life. Note Joshua 1:8.
- C. God’s _____ - teams help fulfill dreams. A crowd can’t support you, but a small group can (note Ecclesiastes 4:12).

We can be transformed by God:

- If all you do is come to church and _____, you won’t experience any significant, long-lasting life change.
- But if you’ll hear it, read it, watch it and discuss it (small group), and _____, you will not be the same person. God will start transforming you.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. Use the commitment card to sign up to be “all-in” in our all-church spiritual journey!



“Can I Be Transformed?”

Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor

MESSAGE NOTES

Note Romans 12:2

God designed us to be non-conformists.

This spiritual journey is about your future and possibilities (making the best of the rest of your life).
What does God tell us about setting goals?

1. Why Are Goals in God's Arsenal for Life Transformation?

Because:

- A. Setting Goals is a Spiritual Activity – God set goals. Jesus had goals (note John 18:37; Luke 9:51; 19:10). Paul had goals (note Philippians 3:12-15). We either go through life by design or default. Without goals, other people and circumstances will decide for us.
- B. Goals Express Faith – goals are statements of faith that stretch our faith (note Hebrews 11:6; Romans 14:23b; Ephesians 3:20). We often set goals too low and try to reach them too soon. The difference between a dream and a goal? Set a deadline. Note Matthew 9:27-29.
- C. Goals Give Focus – God doesn't expect us to do everything (note Philippians 3:13). Life can be spent, wasted, or invested. Note 1 Corinthians 9:26.
- D. Goals Motivate – Note Hebrews 12:2. Goals give hope. Long-term goals help us to not surrender to short-term setbacks.
- E. Goals Develop Character – while we work on good goals, God works on and in us. Note Philippians 3:12. Takes effort and intentionality.
- F. Good Goals Are Rewarded (note Proverbs 11:27a) – God didn't put us here just to make money and retire...the greatest rewards are eternal (note 1 Corinthians 9:25-26a).

2. How Do We Set “Bless-able” Goals?

- A. Will it glorify God? – Note 1 Corinthians 6:20; 10:31; 2 Corinthians 5:9
- B. Is it motivated by love? – Note 1 Corinthians 14:1a; 16:14. Love matters. Otherwise we treat people as projects.
- C. Will it require faith? – Note Proverbs 16:9

3. God's Gifts That Help Us Reach Our Goals

- A. The Holy Spirit – not based on will power, but God's power (note Zechariah 4:6b).
- B. God's Word – the more we become self-feeding followers of Jesus, the more truth we'll know, and the more confidence we can experience as we navigate through life. Note Joshua 1:8.
- C. God's People – teams help fulfill dreams. A crowd can't support you, but a small group can (note Ecclesiastes 4:12).

We can be transformed by God:

- If all you do is come to church and hear, you won't experience any significant, long-lasting life change.
- But if you'll hear it, read it, watch it and discuss it (small group), and DO IT, you will not be the same person. God will start transforming you.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. Use the commitment card to sign up to be “all-in” in our all-church spiritual journey!