



Your group matters.

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

*If someone was to give you a May Day flower basket at your door, what kind of flowers and treats would you hope to see in it?*

1. Read [Matthew 22:36-40](#). Pastor Tom says, "A sure sign of immaturity is being self-absorbed and relating to people primarily in ways that benefit ourselves." How do your connections look different when the benefit is yours vs. for others?
2. Read [Matthew 25:31-46](#). How can you turn your current faith into a faith that serves and impacts others?
3. Read [John 13:34-35](#). Jesus made clear that love is the most significant characteristic of His followers. Who is God prompting you to love, and what will it look like?
4. How have you experienced sacrificial love from someone else and how has it impacted you?
5. Pastor Tom expresses that the ultimate filter in evaluating spiritual maturity is God's Royal Law ([John 3:16](#), [Romans 5:8](#), [1 John 4:10](#), and [1 John 3:16](#)). What steps do you need to take to set this as your default filter?

*Day One:* [Luke 2](#)

*Day Two:* [Genesis 46](#)

*Day Three:* [Galatians 1](#)

*Day Four:* [Revelation 3](#)

*Day Five:* [Ecclesiastes 4](#)

*This Personal Guide has been adapted from Professor Grant Horner's Bible Reading System.*

## PERSONAL GUIDE



# RIVERSIDE CHURCH



*"Playing Favorites?"*

April 30, 2023

Pastor Tom Lundeen

MYRC.CHURCH



# "Playing Favorites?"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

## MESSAGE NOTES

We're in a series that's for everyone, no matter where you are in your \_\_\_\_\_ journey, because God wants us to experience new life, and He wants to help us grow and mature in this gift of new life He freely offers. ([Hebrews 6:1](#))

Note [James 2:8](#)

### 1. How We \_\_\_\_\_ People

Note [Leviticus 19:18](#); [Matthew 22:36-40](#); [Romans 13:9](#)

A sure sign of immaturity is being \_\_\_\_\_ and relating to people primarily in ways that benefit ourselves (note [James 2:1-10](#)).

If we can quote [John 3:16](#), pray using King James language, and raise our hands to our favorite worship songs, but treat people \_\_\_\_\_, or make choices that are always first and foremost to only \_\_\_\_\_ ourselves, we are not experiencing the maturity that God designed for us to experience (note [Matthew 25:31-46](#)).

### 2. What is a "\_\_\_\_\_ Law"? (Note [James 2:8](#))

Royal law = belonging to a king, kingly, \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Note [Revelation 19:16](#)).

Jesus followers fulfill royal law because we've been \_\_\_\_\_ in the ultimate royal family (note [1 Peter 2:9-10](#)).

Jesus made clear what was the most \_\_\_\_\_ characteristic of His followers (note [John 13:34-35](#)).

Note [Matthew 22:40](#); [Romans 13:8-10](#); [Colossians 3:14](#); [Galatians 5:14](#)  
So the *royal law* is the foundation and basis for being Jesus' disciple, and it is superior to and \_\_\_\_\_ all other principles.

### 3. So What is This Kind of Love?

God's love = choosing for the \_\_\_\_\_ good of others  
(note [John 3:16](#); [Romans 5:8](#); [1 John 4:10](#)).

God's love isn't sentimental, mushy emotion that slobbers over people, but a love that sacrifices for others, serves others, and isn't \_\_\_\_\_ on whether others love us back or not.

God's love is the ultimate measurement for \_\_\_\_\_ my actual spiritual maturity.

Note [1 Corinthians 13:1-3, 13](#); [Galatians 5:22a](#)

### So let's *GET Growing*:

- So is God's love helping you became the more spiritually \_\_\_\_\_ person Jesus died and rose from the dead for you to be?
- Is God's *royal law* your \_\_\_\_\_ measuring tool for how you're evaluating your life...
- ...or have you been looking at yourself through some less important \_\_\_\_\_ (note [1 John 3:16](#))?

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey! Let us know, too, and fill out our connect card (digital\* or hard copy).

\*MYRC.LINK/CONNECT or text **riverside** to **94000**



**SMALL GROUP**  
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## MESSAGE NOTES

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Note [James 2:8](#)

### 1. How We Treat People

Note [Leviticus 19:18](#); [Matthew 22:36-40](#); [Romans 13:9](#)

A sure sign of immaturity is being self-absorbed and relating to people primarily in ways that benefit ourselves (note [James 2:1-10](#)).

If we can quote [John 3:16](#), pray using King James language, and raise our hands to our favorite worship songs, but treat people poorly, or make choices that are always first and foremost to only benefit ourselves, we are not experiencing the maturity that God designed for us to experience (note [Matthew 25:31-46](#)).

### 2. What is a "Royal Law"? (Note [James 2:8](#))

*Royal law = belonging to a king, kingly, regal.* (Note [Revelation 19:16](#)).

Jesus followers fulfill royal law because we've been adopted in the ultimate royal family (note [1 Peter 2:9-10](#)).

Jesus made clear what was the most significant characteristic of His followers (note [John 13:34-35](#)).

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So the *royal law* is the foundation and basis for being Jesus' disciple, and it is superior to and supersedes all other principles.

### 3. So What is This Kind of Love?

God's love = choosing for the highest good of others (note [John 3:16](#); [Romans 5:8](#); [1 John 4:10](#)).

God's love isn't sentimental, mushy emotion that slobbers over people, but a love that sacrifices for others, serves others, and isn't dependent on whether others love us back or not.

God's love is the ultimate measurement for evaluating my actual spiritual maturity.

Note [1 Corinthians 13:1-3, 13](#); [Galatians 5:22a](#)

### So let's **GET Growing**:

- So is God's love helping you become the more spiritually mature person Jesus died and rose from the dead for you to be?
- Is God's *royal law* your ultimate measuring tool for how you're evaluating your life...
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