



Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

What was your favorite ride at the amusement park as a kid; what is it now?

1. Pastor Tom stated that “God uses waiting as one of His primary tools to grow our faith and character.” How has God used waiting in your life and in what ways has it stimulated growth?
2. Read [1 Thessalonians 5:17](#). Pastor Tom told us that to “pray continually” is less about how many minutes we pray and more about being in continual connection with God so we can hear Him and speak to Him at any time. What are you doing to develop this kind of ongoing conversation in prayer, moving prayer to your first response rather than your last resort?
3. Read [James 5:16a](#). Pastor Tom said that transparency is another evidence of spiritual growth and maturity in our lives. Why do you find it hard to confess your offenses to those you have hurt or your failures to those who could help? What would have to change for this to become a more regular part of your life?
4. Read [James 5:14-15](#). Pastor Tom referred to physical healing as a “slice of heaven” given to us to show us what all of heaven will be like. Where have you seen “slices of heaven” served up recently, be they physical, emotional, relational or spiritual?
5. Read [1 Kings 18:36-38](#). Pastor Tom noted that only “God Himself” can produce genuine spiritual, moral and ethical transformation in a nation or community. What impact does this have on the way you will pray for our country, state and communities along with the people elected to lead them (even if you didn’t vote for them)?

Day One: [Psalm 47](#)

Day Two: [Proverbs 16](#)

Day Three: [Ruth 2](#)

Day Four: [Isaiah 47](#)

Day Five: [Acts 19](#)

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

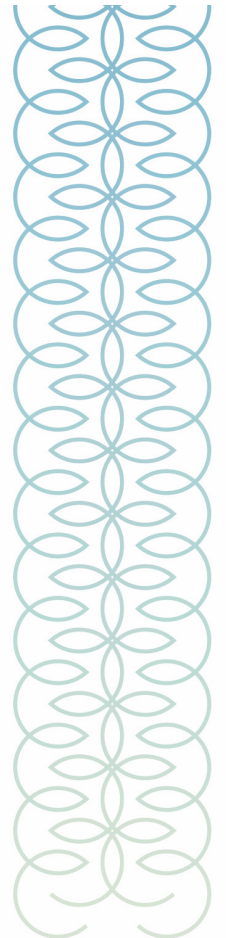
PERSONAL GUIDE



"A Great Double Play"

May 21, 2023

Pastor Tom Lundeen



RIVERSIDE
CHURCH

MYRC.CHURCH



"A Great Double Play"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

MESSAGE NOTES

Today we're wrapping up our series which has been for everyone, no matter where you are at in your spiritual 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 _____ offers (note [Hebrews 6:1a](#)).

We know we are growing when we are becoming:

1. More Patient and _____ (Note [James 5:7-8](#))

One of the most common themes in the entire Bible is that God uses _____ as one of His primary tools to grow our faith and character.

If you can't wait, patience will be _____.

A central part of _____ is patience.

Note [James 5:16](#)

This helps us understand more about the importance of, the _____, and the vital significance of prayer in every aspect of life.

Our praying for each other grows:

- A. By Praying (note [James 5:9, 12, 13a](#); [Philippians 4:6](#); [1 Thessalonians 5:17](#)) - While every genuine Jesus follower would affirm how important prayer is, I think we'd also affirm that having a consistent and meaningful prayer life is challenging/_____. Sometimes our struggle with prayer is because we've made it a religious _____/formality. Prayer is a _____ that grows out of our personal relationship with God. The goal of prayer is not how many _____, but to *pray continually*, to be so sensitive to the Lord that He can speak to us and we can speak to Him anytime/any place/about _____ (note [James 5:13-15a](#)). When prayer becomes our first (and not last) _____, it's an evidence of growth and maturity.
- B. By being _____ (note [James 5:16a](#)) - _____ doesn't mean go to a pastor/priest to obtain forgiveness, nor does it mean to stand up in church and list all our failures. Major idea = confess those matters where we have offended others to those

we have offended, seeking forgiveness, reconciliation, restored fellowship, and able to _____ together without any obstacles or hypocrisy. May also sometimes be specific issues God wants us to deal with with others to help us overcome these faults with the assistance of prayer and _____.

2. What Happens When We Pray for One Another?

- A. _____ needs are met (note [James 5:14-15](#)) - we know that in this _____ world, Jesus followers get sick, hurt, and sometimes dies. But just as God gives us a _____ of what heaven will be like...spiritually and emotionally, He also can give us a _____ of heaven by healing our bodies.
- B. _____ needs are met - praying for each other is not the only thing we can do for each other; it's the _____ thing we can do for each other.
- C. _____ are changed (note [James 5:17-18](#) and [1 Kings 18:36-38](#)) - ...we need to be careful to not simply put our hope in who wins elections to _____ the spiritual, moral, and ethical change our nation needs. When we pray for each other, and for our communities and nation and the world, then we _____ into the only real source of power...God Himself, who can produce genuine transformation. No institutions/practices in this nation are _____ in the wake of persistent and sincere prayer for spiritual renewal and awakening.
- D. _____ are changed (note [James 5:19-20](#); [John 6:44](#)).

So let's **GET Growing**:

- Patience and prayer are God's great double play in our lives that deepens our character, _____ our heart, gives us a passion for His mission, helps us care more for others...
- ...and this is why it's such a _____ part of what it really means to grow and mature spiritually.
- What part are patience and prayer taking in your daily life?

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



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This helps us understand more about the importance of, the all-ness, and the vital significance of prayer in every aspect of life.

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- C. Nations are changed (note [James 5:17-18](#) and [1 Kings 18:36-38](#)) - ...we need to be careful to not simply put our hope in who wins elections to produce the spiritual, moral, and ethical change our nation needs. When we pray for each other, and for our communities and nation and the world, then we tap into the only real source of power...God Himself, who can produce genuine transformation. No institutions/practices in this nation are indestructible in the wake of persistent and sincere prayer for spiritual renewal and awakening.
- D. Individuals are changed (note [James 5:19-20](#); [John 6:44](#)).

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