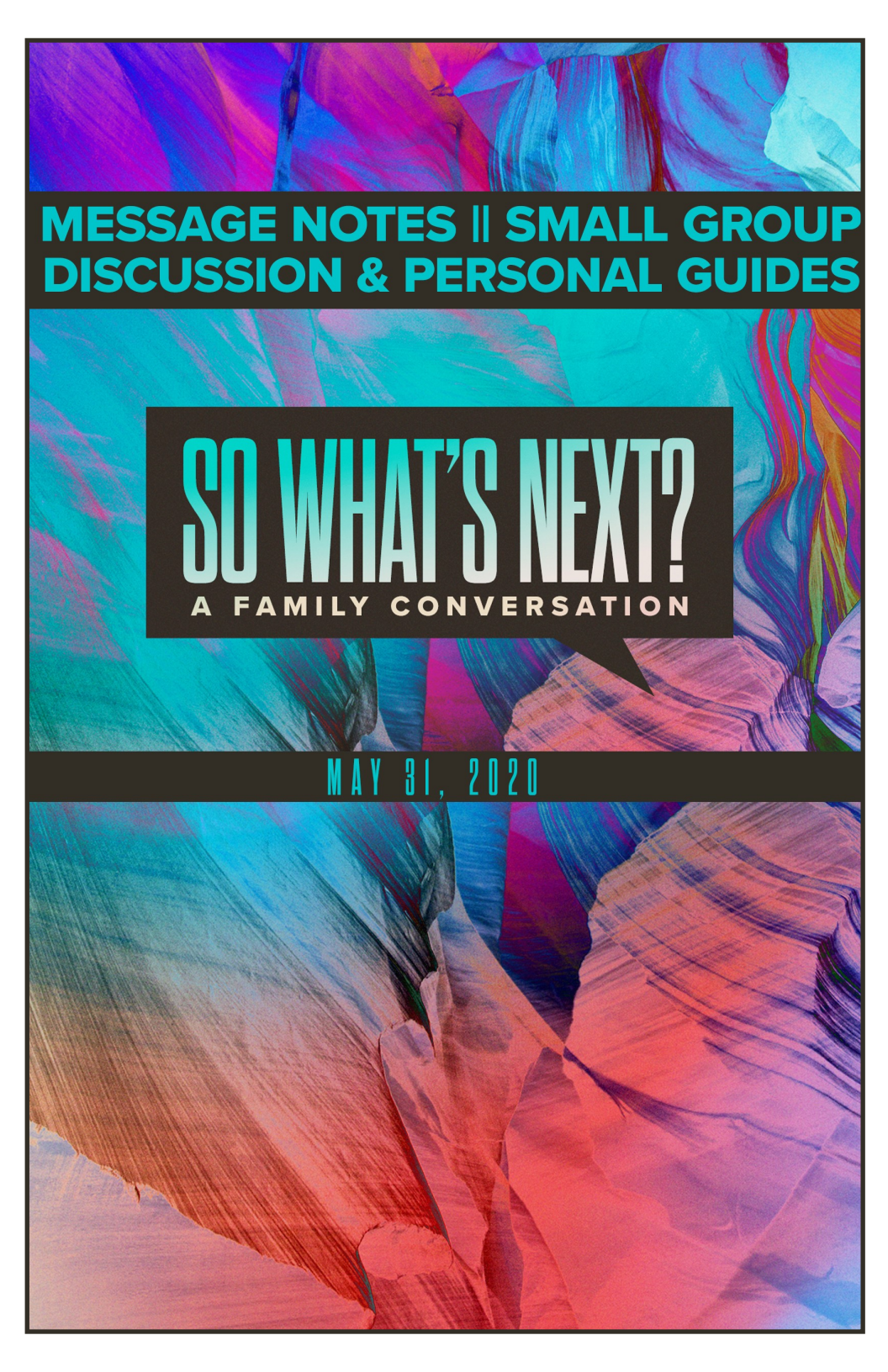




**MESSAGE NOTES || SMALL GROUP  
DISCUSSION & PERSONAL GUIDES**

# SO WHAT'S NEXT?

A FAMILY CONVERSATION

MAY 31, 2020



## **“So What’s Next?”**

**[Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]**

### **MESSAGE NOTES**

...since there has finally been an acknowledgement from both national and state governments of the important role faith has in our country, and the doors of church buildings can start to re-open (under serious conditions and \_\_\_\_\_), what does this mean for Riverside?

Note 1 Corinthians 6:12; 10:23

Just because something is \_\_\_\_\_...doesn’t necessarily mean it’s \_\_\_\_\_... (note 1 Corinthians 10:23-24).

So how does this important \_\_\_\_\_ apply to us in what we’re walking through now?

### **1. Our Riverside Family**

We need to acknowledge that just like in our nation today, there are a \_\_\_\_\_ of opinions and viewpoints at Riverside about COVID-19 and how it is being handled by government (at all levels), by medical professionals, by the media, etc.

When it comes to re-opening our campuses (i.e., Riverside \_\_\_\_\_!), there isn’t one decision or plan that everyone will think is fantastic.

So what’s our \_\_\_\_\_ to each other as we navigate these complex times and decisions?

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ one another (note John 13:34-35; Galatians 5:13) - \_\_\_\_\_ for the highest good of others.
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ humility (note Philippians 2:3).
- C. \_\_\_\_\_ unity (note John 17:23 and Ephesians 4:1-4).

COVID-19 isn’t an \_\_\_\_\_ for us to not choose the highest good of others, to practice humility, and to pray for and promote unity...

## 2. The Question Is Not “\_\_\_\_\_”, but “\_\_\_\_\_” and “\_\_\_\_\_”

We don't have to \_\_\_\_\_ to re-open campuses to prove a point to any level of government now...or because it was we'd all like it to go back to the way it was March 8.

It was much \_\_\_\_\_ to close our campuses and go digital everything (we didn't like it, but it was easier) than it will be to re-open our campuses in a world that has changed \_\_\_\_\_ since March 15.

For a church our size, this presents us with \_\_\_\_\_ of complexity (this is the most complicated thing I've ever tried to figure out...).

We now have our \_\_\_\_\_ guidelines for re-opening now (similar to experiences we've been watching in other states where churches have started re-opening).

*Use the blank space below to jot down anything in this description that interests you:*

*What's next is more complex than we ever dreamed, but:*

- I love our \_\_\_\_\_ and how God uses them.
- But the church isn't a \_\_\_\_\_.
- The process of discipleship is not building-\_\_\_\_\_ (Larry Osborne).
- To become like Jesus means getting the right information/truth for the Holy Spirit to renew our minds and \_\_\_\_\_ us, and...
- ...\_\_\_\_\_ (iron sharpening iron/putting truth into practice).
- The answer to \_\_\_\_\_ will become more clear once we know better the answers to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ we are inviting people back to.
- We will be back in our physical campuses down the road as we learn from the experiences of other churches (especially what \_\_\_\_\_ to do) and as we follow the counsel of many wise and godly leaders (including in our own denomination) to not re-open too soon.
- RIVERSIDE HAS NEVER CLOSED!! (God has been at work in so many ways!).
- God is doing a new thing by helping us move into a world where everyone and everything is online to not simply be a church with multiple physical locations with an online \_\_\_\_\_; but perhaps to become an \_\_\_\_\_ church that has physical campuses.
- Note Matthew 16:18

*Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey!*

*Let us know, too, and fill out our digital connect card.*



# DISCUSSION GUIDE

**Icebreaker:** How would you describe how life felt this month, using only phrases from a weather forecast?

1. Read **1 Corinthians 6:12** and **10:23-24**. How have you seen this truth play out (positively or negatively) in your own life or in the lives of others?
2. Pastor Tom outlined three obligations we have to each other as we navigate complex times and decisions (love one another, embrace humility, guard unity). Which of these stands out to you the most? Which one might be the most challenging for you personally? How is this challenging for you?
3. One of the things Pastor Tom explained that we are recognizing in this season is that “God is doing a new thing.” How have you seen this evidenced in your life? What opportunities are you beginning to see in your path?
4. Jesus said that he will build His Church and the powers of hell will not conquer it (**Matthew 16:18**). What does it look like for us to engage with Jesus and follow him as He builds His church by new means and the same amazing message?

## PERSONAL GUIDE

Day 1: **2 Timothy 2**

Day 2: **2 Timothy 3**

Day 3: **2 Timothy 4**

Day 4: **Titus 1**

Day 5: **Titus 2**



## “So What’s Next?”

[Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

### MESSAGE NOTES

...since there has finally been an acknowledgement from both national and state governments of the important role faith has in our country, and the doors of church buildings can start to re-open (under serious conditions and restrictions), what does this mean for Riverside?

Note 1 Corinthians 6:12; 10:23

Just because something is permitted...doesn't necessarily mean it's beneficial... (note 1 Corinthians 10:23-24).

So how does this important principle apply to us in what we're walking through now?

### 1. Our Riverside Family

We need to acknowledge that just like in our nation today, there are a wide variety of opinions and viewpoints at Riverside about COVID-19 and how it is being handled by government (at all levels), by medical professionals, by the media, etc.

When it comes to re-opening our campuses (i.e., Riverside NEVER CLOSED!), there isn't one decision or plan that everyone will think is fantastic.

So what's our obligation to each other as we navigate these complex times and decisions?

- A. Love one another (note John 13:34-35; Galatians 5:13) - choosing for the highest good of others.
- B. Embrace humility (note Philippians 2:3).
- C. Guard unity (note John 17:23 and Ephesians 4:1-14).

COVID-19 isn't an excuse for us to not choose the highest good of others, to practice humility, and to pray for and promote unity...

## 2. The Question Is Not “When”, but “How” and “What”

We don't have to rush to re-open campuses to prove a point to any level of government now...or because it was we'd all like it to go back to the way it was March 8.

It was much easier to close our campuses and go digital everything (we didn't like it, but it was easier) than it will be to re-open our campuses in a world that has changed significantly since March 15.

For a church our size, this presents us with multiple layers of complexity (this is the most complicated thing I've ever tried to figure out...).

We now have our state's guidelines for re-opening now (similar to experiences we've been watching in other states where churches have started re-opening).

*Use the blank space below to jot down anything in this description that interests you:*

*What's next is more complex than we ever dreamed, but:*

- I love our facilities and how God uses them.
- But the church isn't a building.
- The process of discipleship is not building-centric (Larry Osborne).
- To become like Jesus means getting the right information/truth for the Holy Spirit to renew our minds and transform us, and...
- ...community (iron sharpening iron/putting truth into practice).
- The answer to when will become more clear once we know better the answers to how and what we are inviting people back to.
- We will be back in our physical campuses down the road as we learn from the experiences of other churches (especially what not to do) and as we follow the counsel of many wise and godly leaders (including in our own denomination) to not re-open too soon.
- RIVERSIDE HAS NEVER CLOSED!! (God has been at work in so many ways!).
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