

SMALL GROUP NEXT STEP IDEAS

Instructions: We all have next steps we need to take. This week we are featuring potential next steps you might take in a specific area where you need to STAY. We hope this list will help get your ideas flowing!

- STAY on track to get out of debt; stick to your budget.
- STAY interested in your spouse's/kids' interests.
- STAY in one line at Walmart; God may have put you there for a reason.
- STAY committed to your fitness routine.
- STAY silent...even if it feels like it's going to kill you!
- STAY on task, STAY the course, STAY classy!
- STAY in counseling or in a support group.
- STAY away - you know why.
- STAY in school.
- STAY off the phone; be fully present with others.
- STAY engaged with the skill you are trying to learn/master.
- STAY to allow healing/restoration in a marriage or relationship.
- STAY aware of where you're browsing online.
- STAY away from toxic relationships.
- STAY close to the wise and gain wisdom.
- STAY calm...

We are excited to see what NEXT STEP you take to STAY. Email us at **NextStep@myriversidechurch.com** and let us know how you've decided to STAY. (We'd like to post what Riversiders are doing on Riverside's Instagram & Facebook page during the journey. We'll include your NEXT STEP if you'd like - just let us know!)

Your **Small Group Guide** will help you process what it means to STAY as well as what your next step might look like. Get your copy by the resource area near the worship center or go to www.myriversidechurch.com/smallgroups to see the digital copy.



DIVINE DIRECTION

MESSAGE NOTES & NEXT STEP IDEAS

STAY

September 23, 2018



“STAY”

[Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

We make our _____ and our decisions make us.

Our _____ today write the story we'll share tomorrow.

No matter our age or season of life, one of the most challenging and sometimes confusing aspects of recognizing God's divine direction in our lives is _____ is He leading us to go or to stay?

1. _____ Personal Situations

For most of us, tough circumstances often become the _____/justification for going...

...but there are probably more times than we realize that problems/struggles/pain are used by God to _____ our lives and deepen our faith as nothing else can, and we'll only benefit _____ by persevering for a season or longer.

Note Galatians 4:13-15; 6:11; Acts 13:13-14:20

Paul stayed in this region because of the problem with his _____.

It doesn't sound like Galatia was on his _____...

But Jesus' plan, as always, was focused on eternity and His _____...

Note II Corinthians 12:7-10; Acts 19:11-12

Sometimes God's will is not to just stay in a geographic location, but stay in a certain physical, emotional, or relational place because staying will give us what _____ and will give Him the greatest glory.

2. _____ Personal and Ministry Circumstances

Note Acts 15:36-41; Acts 16, 17

Note Acts 18:4-11

Paul needed _____. He needed some s _____. He needed some encouragement. He needed some time “off the _____”.

Sometimes God's divine direction is to land somewhere, _____ spiritually and relationally, and have God not only work in our own lives, but also use us in other people's lives, too.

3. When Jesus “Stayed”

As incredible as it may seem, Jesus Himself had to “stay” when _____ of His being wanted to “go”...

Note Matthew 26:36-44

Without a “no”, without a “stay”, there would've been no _____; no redemption/salvation/rescue of a lost world; no defeat of death and no _____ of eternal life.

And so Jesus “stayed”...

The only place He didn't stay was in the _____...!

When it comes to Divine direction:

- Because Jesus stayed, our sins can be forgiven, our lives can be changed, and _____ can be assured.
- Is Jesus challenging you to “stay”...at your current job...with your education/studies...on that team...in your neighborhood...in your marriage...to keep praying for a lost friend, child, parent, person you work with, prodigal...?

You can still make a commitment today to engage in this all-church spiritual journey! Also, tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey.



“STAY”

[Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

We make our decisions and our decisions make us.
Our choices today write the story we'll share tomorrow.

No matter our age or season of life, one of the most challenging and sometimes confusing aspects of recognizing God's divine direction in our lives is discerning is He leading us to go or to stay?

1. Difficult Personal Situations

For most of us, tough circumstances often become the reason/justification for going...
...but there are probably more times than we realize that problems/struggles/pain are used by God to mold our lives and deepen our faith as nothing else can, and we'll only benefit fully by persevering for a season or longer.

Note Galatians 4:13-15; 6:11; Acts 13:13-14:20

Paul stayed in this region because of the problem with his eyes.
It doesn't sound like Galatia was on his itinerary...

But Jesus' plan, as always, was focused on eternity and His mission...
Note 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Acts 19:11-12

Sometimes God's will is not to just stay in a geographic location, but stay in a certain physical, emotional, or relational place because staying will give us what we need most and will give Him the greatest glory.

2. Encouraging Personal and Ministry Circumstances

Note Acts 15:36-41; Acts 16, 17
Note Acts 18:4-11

Paul needed friends. He needed some stability. He needed some encouragement. He needed some time “off the road”.

Sometimes God's divine direction is to land somewhere, plant some roots spiritually and relationally, and have God not only work in our own lives, but also use us in other people's lives, too.

3. When Jesus “Stayed”

As incredible as it may seem, Jesus Himself had to “stay” when every fiber of His being wanted to “go”...
Note Matthew 26:36-44

Without a “no”, without a “stay”, there would've been no cross; no redemption/salvation/rescue of a lost world; no defeat of death and no promise of eternal life.

And so Jesus “stayed”...
The only place He didn't stay was in the tomb...!

When it comes to Divine direction:

- Because Jesus stayed, our sins can be forgiven, our lives can be changed, and heaven can be assured.
- Is Jesus challenging you to “stay”...at your current job...with your education/studies...on that team...in your neighborhood...in your marriage...to keep praying for a lost friend, child, parent, person you work with, prodigal...?

You can still make a commitment today to engage in this all-church spiritual journey! Also, tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey.