

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/way in which you need to CONNECT. We hope this list will help get some ideas started for you.

CONNECT with your family:

- Game Night - once a week is not too often!
- Make and have breakfast or dinner together.
- Call or write your mom and dad (things besides bills and ads are great!)
- Visit a relative who needs some TLC...even if it's hard or will take some time.

CONNECT with your church:

- Talk with your group about continuing beyond the journey...you don't have to be done next week!
- Invite someone over or out to breakfast/lunch after you attend service.
- Find someone you **don't know** to enjoy your coffee/donut with in the Café.
- Go to G-Class and discover who you can connect with in your Next Step.

CONNECT in your community:

- If you are able, volunteer and meet new people at your local school - they always need volunteers!
- Make your home a place others are drawn to (is your welcome mat out?)
- That person you admire or want to be like...give them a call and set up coffee or lunch with them.
- Connect with people who make you better, draw you closer to God, and tell you the truth about yourself, even when they are outside your normal circles.

We are excited to see what NEXT STEP you take as you CONNECT. Email us at NextStep@myriversidechurch.com and let us know the ways in which you've decided to CONNECT.

Your **Small Group Guide** will help you process what it means to SERVE 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

CONNECT
October 14, 2018



“CONNECT”

[Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

Note only do we make decisions and our decisions make us, but also today's decisions end up _____ what our tomorrow will look like.

Note Proverbs 13:20

Show me your _____ and I'll show you your future. (Groeschel)

Note Hebrews 2:10a; Ephesians 1:5; 1 Peter 2:17a

Learning to love our spiritual family makes us more like _____.

Note 1 John 4:21; 1 Timothy 3:15

Riverside is not just a church to go to, but a _____ where you can belong.

There are 4 main levels of connection God uses to give us divine direction:

1. Choosing to _____

Note Ephesians 2:19

A Jesus follower without a church family is an _____.

Note Romans 12:5—"M_____" = originally a Christian word means *belonging to God's family*.

_____ shows we belong to God's family in a symbolic way (*note Romans 6:3-4*).

2. Learning to _____

We're wired to have meaningful relationships...life isn't a _____.

Note Acts 2:44

Meaningful, long-term friendships aren't a matter of _____...they are a matter of choice.

Sharing our:

- E_____ grows friendships (*note Proverbs 27:17*).
- _____ grow friendships (*1 Peter 4:9*).
- _____ grow friendships (*note Galatians 6:2; Romans 12:15*).

Small groups are our primary source of _____ and encouragement (*note Hebrews 10:25*).

3. Doing _____

We all have a part and are to "p_____ n_____" with others (*note 1 Corinthians 3:9a*).

We get to be a part of God's plan for the universe and _____ (*note Ephesians 4:16*).



4. _____ Other Jesus Followers Like Family

_____ (next of kin) = _____ relationships/people that matter the most (*note Acts 2:42a; Romans 12:10*).

It means a willingness to _____ for each other.

Note John 3:16 and 1 John 3:16.

So how do we go to the _____ level of connection in our culture?

By _____ with Jesus followers as they go through painful experiences and critical moments (*note John 13:35*).

Where there's _____ love...people will be attracted...because people aren't looking for organized _____, they're looking for a family.

When it comes to Divine direction:

- How do we know if we are in God's family? (*note 1 John 3:10, 14; 4:20; Galatians 3:26*).
- God designed His family to be a l_____ in learning to love.
- God's family is where we learn to love real (not _____) people (there are no _____ people).
- So what level of connection are you at?
- Ask God to help you _____ to the deepest level.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can also use the Connect Card to let us know about your commitment, too!



“CONNECT”

[Tom Lundeen, Senior Pastor]

MESSAGE NOTES

Not only do we make decisions and our decisions make us, but also today's decisions end up shaping what our tomorrow will look like.

Note Proverbs 13:20

Show me your friends and I'll show you your future. (Groeschel)

Note Hebrews 2:10a; Ephesians 1:5; 1 Peter 2:17a

Learning to love our spiritual family makes us more like God.

Note 1 John 4:21; 1 Timothy 3:15

Riverside is not just a church to go to, but a family where you can belong.

There are 4 main levels of connection God uses to give us divine direction:

1. Choosing to Belong

Note Ephesians 2:19

A Jesus follower without a church family is an orphan.

Note Romans 12:5 - “Membership” = originally a Christian word means *belonging to God's family*.

Baptism shows we belong to God's family in a symbolic way (note Romans 6:3-4).

2. Learning to Share

We're wired to have meaningful relationships...life isn't a solo act.

Note Acts 2:44

Meaningful, long-term friendships aren't a matter of luck...they are a matter of choice.

Sharing our:

- experiences grows friendships (note Proverbs 27:17).
- homes grows friendships (1 Peter 4:9).
- problems grows friendships (note Galatians 6:2; Romans 12:15).

Small groups are our primary source of care and encouragement (note Hebrews 10:25).

3. Doing My Part

We all have a part and are to “play nicely” with others (note 1 Corinthians 3:9a).

We get to be a part of God's plan for the universe and eternity (note Ephesians 4:16).

4. Love Other Jesus' Followers Like Family

Kinship (next of kin) = closest relationships/people that matter the most (note Acts 2:42a; Romans 12:10).

It means a willingness to sacrifice for each other.

Note John 3:16 and 1 John 3:16.

So how do we go to the deepest level of connection in our culture?

By standing with Jesus' followers as they go through painful experiences and critical moments (note John 13:35).

Where there's genuine love...people will be attracted...because people aren't looking for organized religion, they're looking for a family.



When it comes to Divine direction:

- How do we know if we are in God's family? (note 1 John 3:10, 14; 4:20; Galatians 3:26).
- God designed His family to be a laboratory in learning to love.
- God's family is where we learn to love real (not ideal) people (there are no ideal people).
- So what level of connection are you at?
- Ask God to help you move to the deepest level.

Tell someone about the next step you took today in your spiritual journey. You can also use the Connect Card to let us know about your commitment, too!