



RIVERSIDE CHURCH



FOUNDATIONS

“EVERYONE IS WELCOME!”

July 7, 2024  Pastor Nate Sickler

MYRC.CHURCH



MESSAGE NOTES

“EVERYONE IS WELCOME!”

July 7, 2024

Pastor Nate Sickler

Jesus came to this earth to _____ lost people (**John 10:9-10**).

And Jesus calls every one of His followers to do what He did and still does constantly: be _____-focused and reaching lost people.

While many Jesus followers _____ agree that Jesus came to rescue lost people and calls His churches and followers to partner with Him in this mission, our follow-through with this mission tells a different story...

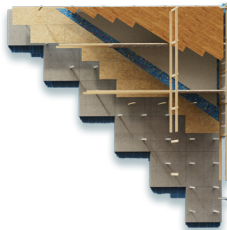
About 70% of _____ in the US are plateaued or declining.

With this disparity in mind, this series is exploring why being outward-focused as a church and as Jesus followers is the most transforming and life-giving thing we can do; both for ourselves and others.

Today we are focusing on the amazing reality that in God's family, _____ is welcome!

1. One of the biggest objections to the Christian faith is that Jesus is the _____ way for salvation. However...

- a. While the road is narrow, it is not an _____ road.
(**Matthew 7:13-14; Titus 2:11; Galatians 3:28**)
- b. Jesus' rescue is for _____ and _____.
(**1 Timothy 2:3-6a; John 3:16**)
- c. Don't confuse the _____ of Jesus' claims and deeds with arrogance or intolerance. _____ God there is a rescue plan!



2. If _____ is welcome, then why do Christians, at times, struggle to welcome _____?
- We sometimes _____ or even _____ others
(**Matthew 19:13-14**)
 - We can get stuck thinking _____ instead of _____
(**Matthew 19:23-26**)
 - _____ (**Matthew 20:13-16**)

FOUNDATIONS MATTER:

- Say 'YES!' to following Jesus
- Aren't you grateful Jesus _____ you?
- Does your welcome _____ Jesus' welcome of others into _____ family?

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
guide on the back

SG

Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

What do you do when you start hearing thunder and seeing lightning in the summer?

1. It's easy to agree that being outward-focused is best, but how have you actually moved in that direction since the *Foundations* series has begun?
2. Ready [Matthew 7:13-14](#), [Titus 2:11](#), [1 Timothy 2:3-6](#) and [John 3:16](#). How does the reality that salvation is available for all differ from your or others' thoughts or attitudes about Jesus' claim to be the only way?
3. Read [Matthew 19:13-14](#), [23-26](#) and [20:13-16](#). Using these passages as a guide, how would you rate yourself vs. how Jesus interacted with people of all different kinds?
4. What are some of your personal (not Jesus') hangups with new Christians, and who do you need to extend a Jesus style welcome to the family of God?
5. How can we *truly* learn to celebrate here on earth, seeing as Jesus does, when a lost person is found (like the angels in heaven do) instead of picking them apart, using human standards? ([Luke 15:10](#))

Day One: [John 16](#); [Psalm 84](#)

Day Two: [Exodus 34](#); [Proverbs 22](#)

Day Three: [Romans 6](#); [2 Samuel 4](#)

Day Four: [Titus 1](#); [Jeremiah 18](#)

Day Five: [Job 22](#); [Acts 28](#)

PERSONAL GUIDE

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



MESSAGE NOTES

“EVERYONE IS WELCOME!”

July 7, 2024

Pastor Nate Sickler

Jesus came to this earth to rescue lost people (**John 10:9-10**).

And Jesus calls every one of His followers to do what He did and still does constantly: be outward-focused and reaching lost people.

While many Jesus followers intellectually agree that Jesus came to rescue lost people and calls His churches and followers to partner with Him in this mission, our follow-through with this mission tells a different story...

About 70% of churches in the US are plateaued or declining.

With this disparity in mind, this series is exploring why being outward-focused as a church and as Jesus followers is the most transforming and life-giving thing we can do; both for ourselves and others.

Today we are focusing on the amazing reality that in God's family, everyone is welcome!

1. One of the biggest objections to the Christian faith is that Jesus is the only way for salvation. However...

- a. While the road is narrow, it is not an exclusive road. (**Matthew 7:13-14; Titus 2:11; Galatians 3:28**)
- b. Jesus' rescue is for anyone and everyone. (**1 Timothy 2:3-6a; John 3:16**)
- c. Don't confuse the clarity of Jesus' claims and deeds with arrogance or intolerance. Praise God there is a rescue plan!



2. If everyone is welcome, then why do Christians, at times, struggle to welcome everyone?
- We sometimes overlook or even resent others (**Matthew 19:13-14**)
 - We can get stuck thinking formula instead of faith (**Matthew 19:23-26**)
 - Entitlement (**Matthew 20:13-16**)

FOUNDATIONS MATTER:

- Say 'YES!' to following Jesus
- Aren't you grateful Jesus welcomes you?
- Does your welcome reflect Jesus' welcome of others into His family?

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](https://myrc.link/connect) or text **riverside** to **94000**



SMALL GROUP
guide on the back