



**WELCOME**  
*to*  
**RIVERSIDE**  
CHURCH

*Big Lake*  
*Buffalo*  
*Sauk Rapids*

*May 3, 2026*

# SG

Your group matters.

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

*What is the most exciting event you  
have ever witnessed in person?*

1. Pastor Tom said that, when challenged, “we [need to] keep our hearts and minds in tune with God’s heart, purposes, and plan.” After reading **Matthew 5:38-41 & 43-47** to see Jesus’ “heart and mind” in challenges, what objections come to mind about this teaching and what can you do to overcome them to align our hearts & minds with Jesus?
2. Pastor Tom reminded us that if we are following God’s direction faithfully, we can “expect Him to work” when challenged. How does **Numbers 16:28-32** help you face your challenges with faith and faithfulness?
3. Some people still don’t get it (see **Numbers 16:41**), no matter how logical the argument or how plain the evidence. If you have come across such people, how have you continued to honor God and love your difficult neighbors as yourself? What encouragement would you give others in this situation - scripturally or otherwise?
4. Pastor Tom defined a challenge as “something which tests a person’s qualities” among other things. What qualities does God test in you when He allows challenges to come your way, and which of them are the most difficult for you to practice?
5. Pastor Tom indicated that we need to not only endure challenges, but we should “embrace” them as an opportunity to test and develop our character. It would seem the Apostles Peter (**1 Peter 1:6-7**), James (**James 1:2-4**) and Paul (**Romans 5:3-5**) agree with him. How and through whom can you seek joy in the midst of your challenges? How might this affect your relationship with Jesus?

## PERSONAL GUIDE

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

*Day One:* John 3; Psalm 15

*Day Two:* Deuteronomy 12; Proverbs 10

*Day Three:* Romans 9; 1 Corinthians 14

*Day Four:* 2 Peter 3; Ezekiel 42

*Day Five:* Job 41; Acts 25



**Milestones - Part 4**  
**"Challenges" (Part 2)**

**Pastor Tom Lundeen | May 3, 2026**

Challenge = ...a calling in \_\_\_\_\_ of the truth of statements, rights, authority, etc.

...something which tests a person's \_\_\_\_\_. (Webster)

Note **Numbers 16:1-3**

When my ability to lead...is challenged and my character is \_\_\_\_\_, how should I respond?

Brief review of Part 1...when life is challenging:

- 1. Fall Flat on Your Face**
- 2. Be Prepared to Confront the Actual Issues**
- 3. We Need to Deal with Our Anger**
- 4. Keep a \_\_\_\_\_ Heart**

Note **Numbers 16:18-22; Matthew 5:38-41, 43-47; Luke 23:34a; Acts 7:59-60**

Living on purpose means that when life is challenging, we keep our hearts and minds in \_\_\_\_\_ with God's heart, purposes, and plan.

- 5. Expect God to \_\_\_\_\_**

Moses...not only expected God to work in positive/encouraging circumstances but also expected God to work in challenging circumstances and \_\_\_\_\_ situations.

Note **Numbers 16:28-32**

- 6. Realize Some People Don't \_\_\_\_\_**

Note **Numbers 16:41**

Sometimes there will be some of those who challenge us that will never change their minds, \_\_\_\_\_ their criticisms, or admit they were wrong.

## 7. \_\_\_\_\_ the Opportunity It Gives to Test Our Character

Note **Romans 3:23; Numbers 16:41a, 42-45**

Remember the definition of *challenge* = something which tests a person's \_\_\_\_\_.

Note **Numbers 16:46-48**

Living on purpose means we recognize God will use the challenges we face to test our character and cause our personal qualities to \_\_\_\_\_.

Notes **James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:6-7; Romans 5:3-5**

### **MILESTONES MATTER:**

- Will you choose to face life's challenges \_\_\_\_\_ with limited human resources, or choose to say 'YES!' to Jesus as Lord and receive His help and grace?
- In the midst of our challenges, are you asking God to help you keep a sensitive heart, expect Him to work, realize not everyone will get it, and embrace the opportunity it gives to test our character?

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

**App:** Message Notes/Connect Card **Or:** MYRC.LINK/CONNECT



### Milestones - Part 4 "Challenges" (Part 2)

Tom Lundeen | May 3, 2026

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### **5. Expect God to Work**

Moses...not only expected God to work in positive/encouraging circumstances but also expected God to work in challenging circumstances and difficult situations.

Note **Numbers 16:28-32**

### **6. Realize Some People Don't Get It**

Note **Numbers 16:41**

Sometimes there will be some of those who challenge us that will never change their minds, stifle their criticisms, or admit they were wrong.

## 7. Embrace the Opportunity It Gives to Test Our Character

Note **Romans 3:23; Numbers 16:41a, 42-45**

Remember the definition of *challenge* = *something which tests a person's qualities*.

Note **Numbers 16:46-48**

Living on purpose means we recognize God will use the challenges we face to test our character and cause our personal qualities to shine.

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