



WELCOME *to* **RIVERSIDE** CHURCH

Big Lake - Buffalo - Sauk Rapids

ONE CHURCH
MULTIPLE CAMPUSES
ONE FAMILY

Aug 16, 2026

Message Notes



Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

*What is one thing that people
do that drives you crazy?*

1. Pastor Shawn said that when Jesus did miracles, he “illustrated the coming Kingdom of God by defying the laws of nature to show people what His Kingdom will look like.” What is one of your favorite “Jesus-miracles” and what does it tell you about Christ’s coming Kingdom?
2. Read **John 17:20-23**. In what way(s) do you think our oneness with Christ and “complete unity” with each other demonstrates to non-believers that, as Jesus said, God the Father sent Him into the world because of His love for us all?
3. Read **Galatians 3:26-28**, **Colossians 3:11**, and **Ephesians 2:14-16**. Here the Apostle Paul describes Christ’s Church as Jesus designed it in love and unity. When reading these verses, who is the primary actor in creating this kind of “new humanity” and what do you think your personal role is in bringing this miracle about?
4. What did Pastor Shawn mean when he said that while “you are the miracle” this miracle of unity “cannot be exhibited alone...this is a group miracle?” What can you as an individual do to “step into the miracle” that Jesus is performing in the world today? Is there something you can do to help others?
5. How have you seen and experienced this miracle of loving oneness carried out through you or to you in your relationships with the Church or in the Church? If you have ever shared these experiences with non-believing friends, how have they responded to what you’ve told them?

PERSONAL GUIDE

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

Day One: John 18; Psalm 30

Day Two: Deuteronomy 27; Proverbs 25

Day Three: 1 Chronicles 8; 2 Corinthians 13

Day Four: Revelation 7; Daniel 9

Day Five: Song of Songs 2; Acts 12



"Alive to One Another"

Pastor Shawn Norton | Aug 16, 2026

Because of grace we are: Alive to God
Alive to Mission
Alive to Power
Alive to The Church

Because of grace, we are Alive to One Another

1. It Would Take a Miracle

By these great and wondrous miracles, Jesus provided _____ lessons that verified and _____ His message that the Kingdom of Heaven was at hand.
(**Revelation 21:1a, 3-4**)

2. Where Are Our _____?

Jesus prayed that the _____ of the Church would exhibit the same qualities of love and _____ as the Trinity itself!

John 17:20-23; John 13:34-35; John 15:9a

3. You Are the Miracle.

You are the _____, the object lesson, that helps the world around us to see the Kingdom of God is at hand and is for _____.

Galatians 3:26-28; Colossians 3:11; Ephesians 2:14; Ephesians 2:15b-16

Groups and subgroups are found everywhere, each having their own _____ to check to see if you're in or you're out.

4. Unity Would Take a _____!

You are the light of the _____...You are a city on a _____...You are a lamp on a _____...So let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. (See **Matthew 5:14-16**)

For He himself is our _____, who has made the groups one and has _____ the dividing wall of hostility.
(See **Ephesians 2:14**)

Colossians 3:9-10; Galatians 3:26-27; Revelation 3:20

The real question is, what are we _____ with it?

To see a miracle, even in Jesus' day, you had to _____.

1. We Need to _____ Life Together

Doing life together where we are rubbing up against each other's _____, opinions, habits, and _____.

2. We Need to Do Life with People _____ from Ourselves **Luke 6:32-35a**

If we just join groups that are exactly like us...what does that demonstrate to the world? Only that we are _____.

3. Make Your Small Group a Part of Your _____

According to Jesus, your Small Group _____ mission.

John 17:21-23b; John 13:34-35; Matthew 5:16

Every one of these verses that tell of the miracle of unity _____ us that it is for a _____.

Mission Means Me

Doing "_____" with Thee

That God sent _____

Who saves you and me!

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

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



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1. It Would Take a Miracle

By these great and wondrous miracles, Jesus provided object lessons that verified and authenticated His message that the Kingdom of Heaven was at hand. (**Revelation 21:1a, 3-4**)

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Jesus prayed that the unity of the Church would exhibit the same qualities of love and oneness as the Trinity itself!

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You are the miracle, the object lesson, that helps the world around us to see the Kingdom of God is at hand and is for them.

Galatians 3:26-28; Colossians 3:11; Ephesians 2:14; Ephesians 2:15b-16

Groups and subgroups are found everywhere, each having their own litmus test to check to see if you're in or you're out.

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You are the light of the world...You are a city on a hill...You are a lamp on a stand...So let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

(See **Matthew 5:14-16**)

For He himself is our peace, who has made the groups one and has destroyed the dividing wall of hostility. (See **Ephesians 2:14**)

Colossians 3:9-10; Galatians 3:26-27; Revelation 3:20

The real question is, what are we doing with it?

To see a miracle, even in Jesus' day, you had to step into it.

1. We Need to Do Life Together

Doing life together where we are rubbing up against each other's flaws, opinions, habits, and irritations.

2. We Need to Do Life with People Different from Ourselves

Luke 6:32-35

If we just join groups that are exactly like us...what does that demonstrate to the world? Only that we are exactly like them.

3. Make Your Small Group a Part of Your Mission

According to Jesus, your Small Group IS mission.

John 17:21-23b; John 13:34-35; Matthew 5:16

Every one of these verses that tell of the miracle of unity remind us that it is for a purpose.

Mission Means Me

Doing "WE" with Thee

THAT ALL MAY SEE

That God sent He

Who saves you and me!

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