



Your group matters.

## DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

*As we move into the season of picnics and outdoor events, what will you do if you discover a dead insect in your salad while dining with co-workers, friends or relatives at their home? At a restaurant?*

1. Pastor Tony shared that while “following Jesus is foundationally positive and life-giving...the experience of following Jesus can feel challenging and exhausting.” Describe a time you have experienced both the positive and the challenging/exhausting along with what you think made the difference.
2. Read [1 Peter 4:1-7](#). How can this help you stay focused on doing what is right, even when it is hard?
3. Pastor Tony said that “we’re not called to win arguments and deflate people but to win people and deflate arguments.” How does this difference allow non-believers to safely ask questions and interact with you as a believer?
4. Read [Exodus 13:17-18](#) and [1 Peter 4:8-13](#). “What does God want to impart to you in wilderness moments about the larger purpose you’re called to?”
5. How has God transformed you as you have lived out the **BIG3** at Riverside?
6. What did you commit to do each day this week, and how can your group hold you accountable?

Day One: [Psalm 25](#)

Day Two: [Proverbs 25](#)

Day Three: [Judges 1](#)

Day Four: [Isaiah 25](#)

Day Five: [Acts 25](#)

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

## PERSONAL GUIDE



RIVERSIDE  
CHURCH



Your story matters.

WHAT DID  
**YOU EXPECT?**  
(PART 1)

**MYTHUNDERSTANDING**

PASTOR TONY MYLES

MAY 29, 2022

MYRC.CHURCH



## "WHAT DID YOU EXPECT? (PART 1)"

Pastor Tony Myles

Name something in your life that recently broke...

It's very easy in today's world to have misguided perceptions about what it means to walk with Jesus.

- On one hand, following Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ positive and life-giving.
- On the other hand, the \_\_\_\_\_ of following Jesus can feel challenging and exhausting.

This raises the question, "What did you expect?"

If there is a lot of fake news about the Church Jesus bled and died and rose again from the dead to create... how much of it are we unintentionally \_\_\_\_\_?

Consider **1 Peter 4:1-7**

**v.1 "...be ready to suffer, too."**

- We tend to expect each day will be great and \_\_\_\_\_, and when it isn't we're \_\_\_\_\_. It should be the other way around, biblically speaking. Suffering is a \_\_\_\_\_.

**v.2-3 "You won't spend the rest of your lives chasing your own desires, but you will be anxious to do the will of God..."**

- Jesus didn't teach "\_\_\_\_\_ values. We're not called to support "\_\_\_\_\_ or "\_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_ over sin, starting in us.

**v.4-6 "But remember that they will have to face God..."**

- We're not called to win arguments and deflate people but to win people and deflate arguments. (Look up **2 Corinthians 10:5**)

**v.7 "...the end of the world..."**

- This is not merely an event, but actual \_\_\_\_\_.

A quick wilderness detour via **Exodus 13:17-18**

- "Midbar": Wilderness you can personally \_\_\_\_\_.
- "Śîyâ": Wilderness you'll need \_\_\_\_\_ through.
- "Jeshimon": Wilderness you'll \_\_\_\_\_ in - short of a \_\_\_\_\_.

Like the Israelites, we can quickly misunderstand the purpose of our \_\_\_\_\_ and His \_\_\_\_\_. God's detours are not about distraction or discouragement but about \_\_\_\_\_.

Consider **1 Peter 4:8-13**

**v.8-11 "Most important of all..."**

- "What did you expect?" is a \_\_\_\_\_ question.

**v.12-13 "...for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world."**

- What does God want to impart to you in wilderness moments about the larger purpose you're called to... to wholly love Him, transformationally love other people to say 'YES!' to Him... to invest your life into letting His Kingdom come?

It's why the **BIG3** matters to us at Riverside, and why we can only see transformation when we live it out.



- 1 Come every Sunday
- 2 Be part of a group
- 3 Serve on a team

**MYTHUNDERSTANDING:**

- Seeing through the wilderness isn't about a pep talk or an inspirational meme, but focusing on God for \_\_\_\_\_ He is.

Don't miss this:

Each day over this next week, I will \_\_\_\_\_.

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



## "WHAT DID YOU EXPECT? (PART 1)"

Pastor Tony Myles

Name something in your life that recently broke...

It's very easy in today's world to have misguided perceptions about what it means to walk with Jesus.

- One one hand, following Jesus is foundationally positive and life-giving.
- On the other hand, the experience of following Jesus can feel challenging and exhausting.

This raises the question, "What did you expect?"

If there is a lot of fake news about the Church Jesus bled and died and rose again from the dead to create... how much of it are we unintentionally telling?

### Consider 1 Peter 4:1-7

**v.1 "...be ready to suffer, too."**

- We tend to expect each day will be great and comfortable, and when it isn't we're surprised. It should be the other way around, biblically speaking. Suffering is a growing pain.

**v.2-3 "You won't spend the rest of your lives chasing your own desires, but you will be anxious to do the will of God..."**

- Jesus didn't teach "American" values. We're not called to support "pride" or "freedom" but grieve over sin, starting in us.

**v.4-6 "But remember that they will have to face God..."**

- We're not called to win arguments and deflate people but to win people and deflate arguments. (Look up 2 Corinthians 10:5)

**v.7 "...the end of the world..."**

- This is not merely an event, but actual erosion.

### A quick wilderness detour via Exodus 13:17-18

- "Midbar": Wilderness you can personally survive.
- "Şîyâ": Wilderness you'll need help through.
- "Jeshimon": Wilderness you'll die in - short of a miracle.

Like the Israelites, we can quickly misunderstand the purpose of our freedom and His path/way. God's detours are not about distraction or discouragement but about development.

### Consider 1 Peter 4:8-13

**v.8-11 "Most important of all..."**

- "What did you expect?" is a two-way question.

**v.12-13 "...for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world."**

- What does God want to impart to you in wilderness moments about the larger purpose you're called to... to wholly love Him, transformationally love other people to say 'YES!' to Him... to invest your life into letting His Kingdom come.

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### MYTHUNDERSTANDING:

- Seeing through the wilderness isn't about a pep talk or an inspirational meme, but focusing on God for Who He is.

Don't miss this:

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