

SG

Your group matters.

DISCUSSION GUIDE

- Icebreaker -

Would you rather climb a mountain or read a good book...all necessary physical abilities being present and equal?

1. Have you ever heard the claim that churches end up costing communities money? If so, share a bit about that with your group. If not...well good, because it's not true anyway!
2. Read [Matthew 5:13-16](#) and discuss being "salt" and "light" along with how it is beneficial to the community you live in.
3. What are some practical ways you have invested as part of Riverside's impact on our communities, both locally and around the world?
4. How do you maintain a balance between your earthly and heavenly citizenships, making positive investments in each? [Philippians 3:20](#), [1 Timothy 2:1-4](#), [1 Peter 2:13-17](#)
5. Pastor Tom pointed us to two ways to make a difference in the lives of people, your community and the world. Which step do you need to take, and what does that look like in real world action steps? (See last bullet point of message notes for the two ways.)

Day One: [Psalm 26](#)

Day Two: [Proverbs 26](#)

Day Three: [Judges 2](#)

Day Four: [Isaiah 26](#)

Day Five: [Acts 26](#)

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

PERSONAL GUIDE



RIVERSIDE CHURCH



Your story matters.

CHURCHES DON'T COST
- **THEY PAY**

MYTHUNDERSTANDING

PASTOR TOM LUNDEEN

JUNE 12, 2022

MYRC.CHURCH



"CHURCHES DON'T COST - THEY PAY"

Pastor Tom Lundeen

As we've seen, there's a lot of _____ about the Church Jesus bled, died, and rose again from the dead to create. Today our focus is on an oft-repeated claim...that local churches end up _____ communities money.

Jesus declared that His followers and family actually provide _____ and blessings to the communities and people around them (note [Matthew 5:13-16](#)).

1. Do _____ Churches Cost or Pay?

Partners for _____ Spaces
The _____ Effect = the _____ benefits local churches bring to local communities.

Average Annual Economic Halo Value Per Congregation = \$1.7 _____ (\$_____ million if you take out 9 highest and 9 lowest churches in the study).

- There's:
- _____ spending
 - _____ spending
 - Our _____ ministries...all supplement other community services (both governmental and private)
 - Children and Student ministries offer great additional help...
 - A study from the Journal of Real Estate Finance and Economics (University of Nevada - Las Vegas) showed houses within a half mile of a larger church experience _____% increase in property values...
 - ...and that a church with over 1,500 attendees can easily draw _____ new families to relocate and be closer.
 - *Urban stats going from present day back to the 1920's show the higher a city's church membership rate, the lower it's burglary, larceny, robbery, assault, and homicide rates.* (which lead to lower _____ rates and other costs)

2. Why Do Churches Pay and Not Cost?

While Jesus followers have their _____ citizenship not in any nation, but in heaven (note [Philippians 3:20](#)), we are also to be _____, contributing parts of society.

Note [Jeremiah 29:4-5, 7](#)

Note [Acts 4:18-20, 5:29](#)

Note [1 Timothy 2:1-4](#); [Romans 13:1](#); [Titus 3:1-2](#); [1 Peter 2:13-17](#)

MYTHUNDERSTANDING:

- While Jesus followers and churches are not perfect in this life, when they are _____ on the Holy Spirit to help them become more like Jesus, when they are _____ on following Jesus' Great Commandment (note [Luke 10:27](#)), and when they are committed to fulfilling Jesus' mission of helping lost people become found people and depopulating _____, everyone benefits in multiple ways.
- If you really want to make a difference in people's lives and in your community and in this world, the _____ is clear:
- Say 'YES!' to Jesus as Lord and become an active participant in the one thing in this world that will last forever, _____.

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



“CHURCHES DON'T COST - THEY PAY”

Pastor Tom Lundeen

As we've seen, there's a lot of fake news about the Church Jesus bled, died, and rose again from the dead to create.

Today our focus is on an oft-repeated claim...that local churches end up costing communities money.

Jesus declared that His followers and family actually provide benefits and blessings to the communities and people around them (note [Matthew 5:13-16](#)).

1. Do Local Churches Cost or Pay?

Partners for Sacred Spaces

The Halo Effect = the economic benefits local churches bring to local communities.

Average Annual Economic Halo Value Per Congregation = \$1.7 million (\$1.2 million if you take out 9 highest and 9 lowest churches in the study).

There's:

- Direct spending
- Indirect spending
- Our care ministries...all supplement other community services (both governmental and private)
- Children and Student ministries offer great additional help...
- A study from the Journal of Real Estate Finance and Economics (University of Nevada - Las Vegas) showed houses within a half mile of a larger church experience 6.27% increase in property values...
- ...and that a church with over 1,500 attendees can easily draw 40 new families to relocate and be closer
- *Urban stats going from present day back to the 1920's shows the higher a city's church membership rate, the lower it's burglary, larceny, robbery, assault, and homicide rates (which lead to lower insurance rates and other costs)*

2. Why Do Churches Pay and Not Cost?

While Jesus followers have their primary citizenship not in any nation, but in heaven (note [Philippians 3:20](#)), we are also to be positive, contributing parts of society.

Note [Jeremiah 29:4-5, 7](#)

Note [Acts 4:18-20, 5:29](#)

Note [1 Timothy 2:1-4](#); [Romans 13:1](#); [Titus 3:1-2](#); [1 Peter 2:13-17](#)

MYTHUNDERSTANDING:

- While Jesus followers and churches are not perfect in this life, when they are relying on the Holy Spirit to help them become more like Jesus, when they are focused on following Jesus' Great Commandment (note [Luke 10:27](#)), and when they are committed to fulfilling Jesus' mission of helping lost people become found people and depopulating hell, everyone benefits in multiple ways.
- If you really want to make a difference in people's lives and in your community and in this world, the data is clear:
- Say 'YES!' to Jesus as Lord and become an active participant in the one thing in this world that will last forever, Jesus' Church.

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).

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