

THIS WEEK

THIS SUNDAY 11/5

El Salvador Trip Presentation & Free Taco Feed, 7pm RWLG.

UPCOMING SUNDAY 11/12

All Church Brunch, 11:30am-1:30 RWLG
Contact Mary Halvordon in the office.

SATURDAY 11/18

Saturday Morning Ministry Prayer, 8am RWLG. Contact Tina Anderson in the office.

SUNDAY 11/19

Introducing River West, 12:30 at Pastor Guy's Home @18123 Westview Dr, LO. Lite lunch provided. RSVP to Mary Halvorson in the office.

2007 Israel Trip Info Meeting, 7:30pm RWCC. Contact Tina Anderson in the office.

WEDNESDAY 11/22

Thanksgiving Eve Service, 6:30pm & 8pm at RWLG.

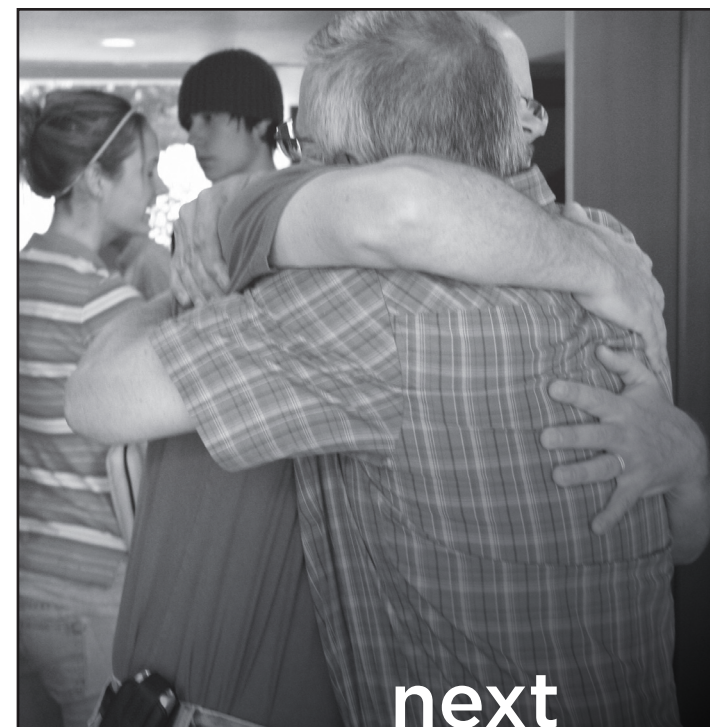
Cover Photo: Greeter Team Leader Clancy Houck welcomes fellow River Wester to a Sunday Worship Service.

RIVER WEST GREENTREE: 1595 Greentree Road, Lake Oswego, OR 97034
RIVER WEST LAKE GROVE: 15751 SW Quarry Road, Lake Oswego, OR 97035
OFFICES/COMMUNITY CENTER: 16148 Boones Ferry Rd., Lake Oswego, OR 97035
phone 503.699.2226 / **fax** 503.697.9663 / **email** info@riverwest

NOTES

RIVER WEST
CHURCH

Building a Community
of Christ for the World



next
step | 11.05.2006

www.riverwest.org

WELCOME

Open your heart. Engage your mind. Together with others, reach for something real, deep and lasting. Come with your hurts, hopes, joys and fears. Expect something good, challenging and different. Here's why: Jesus Christ is alive and present with us as we gather to worship, pray and love one another in his name. That's what we believe! That's why we have come today.

At River West our mission is to build a community of Christ for the world. As we focus on Him in worship and the teaching of the Word, our prayer is that we will sense His presence and respond to His love. Life flows from this! To be in community means to share something in common with others. It is our shared faith in Jesus Christ that creates our sense of fellowship with Him and each other & from that flows our desire to share His love and grace with our community and world.

Our worship gathering is an important expression of our shared faith and life. But true community is built in other important ways as well. At the heart of our mission is what we call our Community Groups. These groups allow us to build relationships and grow deeper in our faith in Christ. For more information about various Community Groups call Pastor Adam at the church office.

Contact Pastor Josh regarding Student Ministry & Youth Groups for kids from 6th grade through High School. Our Children's Ministry Director, Lindsie Bailey would love to talk to you about fun stuff for kids at River West!

RESPOND

Visitor? Need info updated in the directory?
Want to sign up for something? Give us your info:

Name: _____

Children's names: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Best contact phone: _____

Which service do you attend? 8:45am 10am 11am 5:30pm

Sign me up for _____

Comments, questions, interests _____

Add/Update me in the directory

God's Master Plan For Your Life Exodus 6 / Pastor Guy Gray

God's Master Plan for Your Life:

Here is a single passage that captures the essence of what the book of Exodus is really all about! This important chapter takes many of the key themes of Exodus and pulls them all together. In doing so it presents a sort of master plan --showing the big picture of what God is doing in Exodus. By implication, the pattern revealed shows what God does, not just in the lives of His people in Exodus, but at all times throughout history. I like to call this the redemptive pattern of God in our broken world. It is God's intention for Israel in Exodus. But it is God's intention for your life as well.

Freedom, Identity and Purpose : The Three Themes of the Master Plan.

In Exodus 6:6-8 we find three verses --with three distinct themes. Verse 6 speaks of freedom. God says "I will bring you out." Verse 7 speaks of identity. God says: "I will take you for my own people and I will be your God." Verse 8 speaks

of purpose. God says: "I will bring you into the land I swore to give you." Here you find the all important pattern of redemption revealed. When you begin to see and understand each part in the pattern, and how they relate to one another, you begin to understand the story of Israel as it unfolds in Exodus. But you also begin to understand the Gospel of Jesus Christ and how God is working in your own life story.

At Very Center of God's Plan: New Identity through Personal Relationship with God.

The great themes of redemption in Exodus 6 give us a sense of movement: from bondage to freedom; from freedom to deep personal relationship; from relationship to a new direction and purpose in the world. But the key to the pattern is at the center --relationship. God set them free "for" relationship. God sends them in a new direction with a new goal and purpose "because" of relationship. If they are set free --great!

But why have they been set free? Answer: to have this special relationship with God. If they come into a new land of promise --great! But what good is it to live in that land if they forget or ignore that special relationship that God has called them to? God wants them to know that they actually belong to Him. This is to be the defining relationship of their lives. This is their new identity. (See John 17:3)

The Language of a Marriage Relationship.

Verse 7 uses special language --the language of a marriage vow. God says "I will take you to myself." That is Bible "code" for marriage! In fact, from this point forward, God refers to the Exodus as the time when He became as a husband to Israel. This is beautiful. It is heart level and relational. This is God's intention. It is a theme that is found in the New Testament as well, where the members of the church are called "the bride of Christ"! (See Jer. 2:2; 3:14; 31:32 & Rev 19:7 & Eph 5:31-32)

To know the LORD more deeply.

Verses 2-3 give a clue to understanding this passage. God says that previously by name "LORD" He did not make Himself

known to the fathers. But in fact they did use that name in Genesis. The point is that they used it, but even so, they did not understand the full reality of God that went with the name. Now God intends that Israel should know His reality more fully. This is at the center of His master plan for His people. God wants you to know Him --deeply! He wants you to see Him as He truly is; to trust Him fully; to love Him completely; to serve Him actively. This is at the center of the plan. (See 2 Peter 3:18 & Col 1:10)

God's Initiative and Commitment.

Seven times in this passage God says "I will." This shows that the power of the gospel is in the initiative of God Himself. God makes the first move. God is faithful. God is at work. God is committed --fully. This is our hope. When times get tough it is all important that we focus on God's initiative and commitment in Christ. This is what Moses needed to keep going forward. You too! (See Phil 1:6; 2:13 & Eph 2:4-5 & Rom 5:6-8)

Questions for Further Personal Reflection & Group Discussion

In our study of Exodus we have emphasized the idea that the pattern of redemption (Freedom, Identity, and Purpose) is not just a story about Israel. It is our story. It is your story. Take some time to respond to this. In what ways have you seen this pattern in your own life?

God repeats "I am the LORD" four times in 6:2-8. Why do you think He does this? (Recall 3:13-15, 5:2 & 6:3)

Exodus 6:7 is at the very heart of this entire passage. What do we learn about God from this verse?

What is the difference between knowing God and knowing about God? What is the significance of this?

Why do you think God desires for us to know him?

Read Ephesians 3:14-19. What does Paul pray for and how does it relate to what we are learning in Exodus? (Note especially the role of Christ in this prayer.)

Is there any "discouragement" or "cruel bondage" in your life or in the lives of others around you? How does this impact your relationship with the Lord?

We were reminded this week about God's initiative and commitment. (Phil 1:6, 2:13, Eph 2:4-5 & Romans 5:6-8) How can this understanding of God give us hope in times of discouragement?