

## SERIES DISCUSSION GUIDE

### THE RIPPLE EFFECT CHAD BRUEGMAN SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

If you would like to watch the message, visit [rpc.me/messages](https://rpc.me/messages).

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#### LEADER

For any new members of your group or for groups meeting for the first time this week, you go first:

- Introduce yourself.
- What first brought you to RPC|WE (a friend, a meal, an invite, kids' ministry, online), and how long have you been attending?
- What's a fun fact about you?

Have everyone introduce themselves using the same questions.

Go over the Small Groups Covenant. Be sure to start and end your group on time!

#### MESSAGE RECAP

In week two of our *Ripple Effect* series, we were reminded that generosity isn't about guilt or pressure—it's about trust and joy. When we honor God with our "first and best," we're saying, "*God, I trust You to take care of my needs.*" Through stories like Aaron's transformation and Cheryl's simple, faithful choices, we saw how small acts of faith can set the table for life change.

The challenge this week is to consider how we can each create space—whether through serving, giving, or loving others—to be part of God's ripple effect in our world.

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#### WARM-UP QUESTION

- What's something someone did for you recently that made a big difference?

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#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Has there been a moment when you gave sacrificially and later saw the ripple effect of that decision? What happened?
2. Read Matthew 5:17-18. Jesus says He didn't come to *abolish* the Law but to *fulfill* it. He finished the heavy lifting, so we're not performing to earn love—we're responding to love. When we understand this, generosity shifts from "I have to" to a joy-filled response "I get to." Where have you felt that shift in your own life when it comes to giving your time, attention, or money?
3. Read Proverbs 3:9-10. Trusting God with your "first and best" means giving Him the very beginning of what you have, your income, time, or energy, before spending it anywhere else. As we do this, God promises to take care of our needs - sometimes in

ways we can see and sometimes in ways we can't yet. In this season, what could giving your "first and best" realistically look like? (*Whether in your calendar, energy, or finances*)

4. Read Philippians 4:17-19. Chad shared that God is really into gathering. As we give our resources to God's gathering, He gives back. He celebrates what giving does in and for us. How have you seen God take care of you or someone you know in a surprising way?
5. Verse 19 says, "My God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus." What's one area where you sense God inviting you to trust Him more fully to meet your needs right now?
6. People in need find relief from other people's giving. Aaron's story of receiving a free hamburger and a warm welcome from others had a huge ripple effect on his life. God used ordinary hospitality to set the table for salvation and sobriety. Where have you seen simple hospitality open the door for God to do something only He can do?
7. Cheryl shared how she makes small, intentional swaps—like skipping a pedicure and painting her nails at home—to create margin to bless others. No dramatic changes, just faithfulness. What's one swap you could make this week to create space (time or money) to love someone well?

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### APPLICATION QUESTIONS

- Paul is clear that giving is about the heart, not the amount. What's one simple, everyday way you can live generously—whether with your time, words, or resources—this week?
- Pick *one* open-handed move you can do this month: set up recurring giving, join a volunteer team, host a meal, mentor someone, or send three encouragement texts. Which one are you choosing, and when will you do it? (Name it so we can cheer you on next week 😊)

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### CLOSING PRAYER

Your closing prayer can include:

1. **Gratitude** – *Thank God for past ripples of grace.*
2. **Acknowledgment of new insights** – *We are grateful for the wisdom You have given us today. Help it take root in our hearts.*
3. **Request for guidance** – *As we go into our week, help us to live with open hands and open hearts, being a light in the dark world. Show us ways we can create space—through our time, energy, and resources—to love others well and set the table for people to meet You. Amen.*

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### LEADERS: TWO THINGS!

1. Please take attendance and follow up with anyone who did not attend this week.
2. Attend the next **Worship & Prayer Night on September 25** with your group!
  - Richmond & West End: 7:00 PM
  - Missouri City: 6:30 PM