

## CONVERSATION STARTERS FEBRUARY 11, 2018

*This is a guide to help start a conversation about this week's message. Feel free to pick, choose, re-order and adapt as you see fit. You know your group best and can facilitate their experience by modifying as necessary.*

### ICE-BREAKERS

1. If it feels appropriate for your group, a light-hearted way to break the ice and get into the conversation might be to watch the ["Double Rainbow" video on YouTube](#). Why do you think such a seemingly silly video has so many views? What do you think this has to do with spirituality and experiencing God?
2. Unpack the opening moments of conversation we had in this week's service, considering the question: *where and how do you most often encounter a sense of spirituality or connection with God?* How did this moment in the service go for you? Did you meet someone new? Were you able to identify a common spiritual pathway?

### REVIEW

1. You may want to watch this week's message with your group as a refresher. Or, try picking a spot with 10-15 minutes to go to review the main application(s). Messages are found at [southridgechurch.ca/messages](http://southridgechurch.ca/messages).
2. Feel free to try one or two of these. What did you hear in this week's message? What ideas stood out? What did you agree with? Disagree with? What questions came to mind? How did it make you feel?

### REFLECT

1. Do you know anyone who subscribes to the philosophy: "I'm spiritual, but not religious?" Do you subscribe to that philosophy? What do you think the upsides are to this approach? What about the downsides?
2. Read [Hebrews 10:24-25](#) and [2 Timothy 3:16-17](#). If the church is a community of people discovering and living spiritual Truth, how does being together help that? How does this togetherness shape our perspective and understanding of Truth? How can the church be a healthy support to this process?
3. Read [James 1:27](#). What's your first reaction to this verse? Think about your experience with "religion." How similar or different has it been to this description? What do you think it takes for religion to be more like this?
4. Read [Isaiah 43:1-3 \(MSG\)](#). Have you ever experienced the supporting presence of spiritual community when things are falling apart? How has this journey contributed to who you are becoming in your spiritual life?

### RESPOND

1. What is your most natural spiritual or sacred pathway? **Nature, art/beauty, solitude/silence, celebration, contemplation, activism, caregiving, tradition, or intellect?** Something else? What have you done to foster a connection with God through this pathway? How could you practice the presence of God more regularly through this pathway? How can this spiritual pathway be expressed through the church?
2. How were you challenged to embrace God's vision for the church to a greater degree? How could you take a next step to contribute to the "best of religion" and church, believing that "there's nothing like the church when the church is working right?"
3. If it's helpful, consider accessing the following resources: [Sacred Pathways: Discover Your Soul's Path to God by Gary Thomas](#) or the [Southridge Weekend Playlist on YouTube](#).

