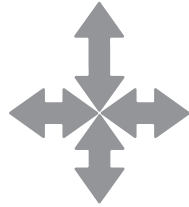




GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of October 28th

This study is designed to help your community group grow as disciples of Jesus Christ. There are three dimensions to following Jesus.



UP: growing in relationship with God

IN: growing in relationship with other followers of Jesus

OUT: growing in relationship with the world around us as we join God in God's mission



IN: Connect with Each Other

PLEASE USE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS AS A GUIDE TO EVALUATE YOUR GROUP.

If you did this last week, confirm whether you will continue as a group, who will continue, and whether you need to adapt the format of your group (time/place/etc.). If you are continuing, please reach out to Katie and Ina to let them know whether your group would be open to adding additional members.

This is the last week in the **LORD** series, and is the last meeting of the 11-week Life Group commitment.

Leaders please jot down some notes and share them with your coach or email them to kfowler@first-pres.org so we can hear some of these stories.

1. How has this group been meaningful for you over the last few months?
2. How has this group helped you grow as a disciple throughout these last few months?
3. What thoughts do you have about the study guides and the questions? What would improve these?
4. Would it be valuable for the group to keep meeting?
 - If "yes" will you continue? Do you need to adapt your time/frequency/meeting place/etc? Do you need to take some time off?
 - If "no" why not? What could have made this a more meaningful experience?

Get Started:

If you had a cash card worth \$25,000 that could only be used for one transaction at any store, where would you go and what would you buy?



UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word

Read aloud the passages for the week: Exodus 20:17 and Luke 16:10–15. Allow a few moments to silently reflect on what you heard. Underline or note words or phrases that seem meaningful.

1. The expression, “keeping up with the Joneses” refers to the tendency to use our friends or neighbors as the benchmark for success. (A classic example is when you see your neighbor’s new car on the driveway and suddenly decide that you need a new car, preferably one a little bit better than your neighbor’s.) What are the dangers that come with living this way?
2. Coveting occurs when: 1) we desire what belongs to someone else and 2) when our desire is an expression of discontentment.¹ Why is it that discontentment is at the root of coveting?
3. We live in a highly consumeristic society, constantly in search of the next hot thing (for example, think about each time the new line of iPhones is released). Scholar William Cavanaugh says, “For many people, consumerism is a type of spirituality.”² What is it that people hope to gain through their incessant consumption of products and services?
4. What does it look like to “serve money?” What does Jesus’s reply to the Pharisees in verse 15 mean for our considerations about God as the Lord of our desires and our shopping today?
5. In considering his life before coming to faith in Christ, Saint Augustine wrote, “I abandoned you to pursue the lowest things of your creation. I was dust going to dust.”³ What do you think these lowest things are? What kinds of “lowest things” do you tend to pursue?
6. The final commandment teaches us to strive for contentment, not covetousness. Being grateful for what we have fills us with joy and allows us to celebrate others’ good blessings. How have you engaged in a discipline of gratitude in the past? How can you begin to practice a life of gratitude in the coming weeks?



Out: : Connect with the World Around Us (Join God in His Mission)

As we head into the holiday season, how will you ensure that God is the Lord of your shopping? This holiday season, how could you use what you do have to bless others?

¹ Kevin DeYoung, *The Good News We Almost Forgot* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2010), 208-209.

² William T. Cavanaugh, *Being Consumed*, (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008), 36.

³ St. Augustine of Hippo, *Confessions*, trans. Henry Chadwick (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1991), 16.