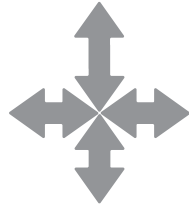




GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of December 30th

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

Get Started:

As you look back on 2018, what was a low point? What was a high point?



UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word

Read aloud the passage for the week: Luke 1:68-79. Allow a few moments to silently reflect on what you heard. Underline or note any words or phrases that seem meaningful.

1. What does this passage have to say about God's redemptive plan?
2. Zechariah recounts God's faithfulness to Israel since the days of Abraham, David, and the time of the prophets. When you think back on 2018, where do you see evidence of God's faithfulness?
3. When you think back on years gone by, where do you see evidence of God's faithfulness throughout your life?
4. We noted at the beginning of December that gratitude is a key to unlocking joy. Have you been able to practice gratitude this month? What effect has this (either intentionally practicing or not practicing) had on you?
5. Zechariah describes how John (the Baptist) will go on to prepare the way of the Lord, to declare salvation and the forgiveness of sins. In many ways the church shares in this vocation. What would it look like for you to "prepare the way of the Lord" in your areas of influence?



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

Re-read verse 79. Zechariah declares that God brings light to those living in darkness, which ultimately leads to peace. First Pres's mission is to be "light and life for the city." How can we participate in God's work of bringing light to dark places as a community (either as a small group or an entire church)?



IN: Connect with Each Other

What are you looking forward to in 2019? What looms ahead that makes you anxious? Lift all of these things up to the Lord as a group.