



GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of January 20th

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:

Describe a time when your entire life schedule or lifestyle shifted (maybe moving cross-country, graduating college, getting married, death of a loved-one, etc...). What was challenging about this experience, and how did you get to a "new normal?"



UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word

Read aloud the passage for the week: Luke 3:4-18. Allow a few moments to silently reflect on what you heard. Underline or note words or phrases that seem meaningful. Pray for your study of God's Word.

1. Re-read Luke 3:9, then read Galatians 5:22-23. Is this the sort of fruit John is talking about, or does he have something else in mind? What kind of fruit has been produced in your life lately?
2. Re-read Luke 3:10-11. John calls for the people to share their food and clothing with those who are struggling financially. Is this something you've done in the past? What was that experience like?
3. Re-read Luke 3:12-14. John makes a number of statements about ethics in the workplace. In your career, when have you witnessed others disregarding or struggling to follow these instructions? When have you been tempted to disregard these instructions?
4. John tells the soldiers to "be content with their pay." Do you find this to be challenging in your own life? How can we move towards becoming "content?"
5. Re-read Luke 3:16-18. Luke calls John's sermon "good news," but at first glance it doesn't really sound like it. In what way are these verses good news?
6. Patterns of life to which we have become accustomed may need to be set aside if we are to take up the way of life brought by Jesus. Is there anything that comes to mind right now which you may need to reconsider in light of Jesus's call in your life?



IN: Connect with Each Other

In the weeks ahead we will consider how Jesus brings a new way of life, a new way of living in this world. Take a few minutes to consider if there is anything in your life which you resist giving over to Jesus. Share with the group and then close your time by asking for God to help your group release their grip on the things which have been named.

If this is too personal for your group, feel free to close your time by simply naming prayer requests and praying for these things aloud.



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

Consider who God may be calling you to share Light and Life with this season. Many of us selected a person last fall to intentionally reach out to. Has there been any recent progress with this individual? Has someone new risen up in your life whom you feel a burden for?