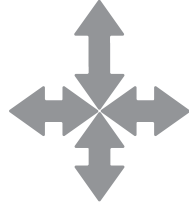




GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of October 27th

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:

In your high school, what did it take to be considered part of the "in" crowd? What was a guaranteed way to be "out"?¹



UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word

Read aloud the passage for the week: Luke 18:9-14. 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. Reread verse 9. Do you know anyone like this? Who do you know who exhibits this level of arrogance and judgment?
2. Reread verse 10. These men are in very different social circles. Pharisees tended to be very legalistic and often viewed themselves as the morality police. Tax collectors were typically viewed as outsiders; traitors who had sided with Rome. Do we typically see these people at our church? What other sorts of people tend to make their way into the pews?
3. Reread verse 11-12. When have you had these sorts of thoughts or viewed yourself in this way?
4. Reread verse 13. When have you been like the tax collector?
5. What has influenced you to be more like one or the other?
6. Reread verse 14. When have you experienced these things to be true?
7. In what ways might this passage challenge you to think differently about what it means to be human?

¹ Serendipity New Testament for Groups, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1990), 180.



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

Being truly human involves being like Jesus and coming into a right relationship with God by humble repentance and faith. Who in your life needs to know Jesus in this way? Discuss how you might encourage this person in their journey towards Jesus (pray for them, have a spiritual conversation in the coming week, invite them to join you at the winter Alpha course, etc.)



IN: Connect with Each Other

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

Please reach out to Ina (imeyer@firstprescos.org) and Greg (ghartnett@firstprescos.org) to let them know what the plan is for your group.

Our Fall Life Group campaign is ending with the Humanize me series next week. Take a few minutes to discuss:

1. How has this group been meaningful for you this fall?
2. How has this group helped you grow as a disciple throughout the fall?
3. 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?

Leader, please jot down some notes during this conversation and send your feedback to ghartnett@firstprescos.org or imeyer@firstprescos.org so we can hear about your group's experience. Thank you!

If you have already had this discussion, take a few minutes to confirm and solidify plans moving forward and then close in group prayer.