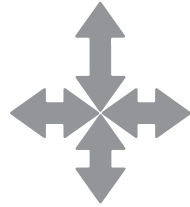




GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of November 3rd

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:

Who is the person you typically go to when you need encouragement? What makes them such an encourager?



UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word¹

Read aloud the passage for the week: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12. 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 3. Why is it right to thank God, as Paul is doing in this verse?
2. How is it that the increase in faith among the Thessalonians leads to increased love for one another?
3. Describe a time when you have been grateful for the encouragement of fellow believers.
4. Reread verse 4. Paul celebrates the perseverance of the Thessalonians in the face of persecution. When have you experienced something which has made you question your faith?
5. What led you to persevere or stay connected to Christian community during that time?
6. Reread verses 6-10. God promises to hold on to us when we can't hold on to Him, and he promises to set all things right in the end. Thinking about your own life, your community, or the world, what kind of things most make you desire to see God's justice done?

¹Many of the questions in this week's guide were drawn from:

Return of the King: 2 Thessalonians, (Buderim, Australia: Lakeshore Community Church of Christ, 2014), 4-5. https://lakeshorechurch.org.au/wp-content/uploads/talks/pdf/2_Thessalonians_Study_Book.pdf



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

Take a moment to pray for other believers in your life who are experiencing difficult times using the kind of language that Paul uses in verses 3-4 and 11-12. Send a quick message to one of the people you prayed for with an encouragement and a quote from one of these verses.



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 has ended. 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.