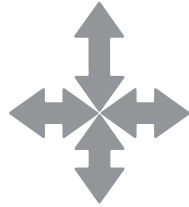




GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of February 17th

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:

What motivates you to get out of bed each day?



UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word

Read aloud the passage for the week: Luke 4:38-44. 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. What do you imagine it would have been like to be around for this series of healings?
2. Re-read verses 40-41. Notice that Jesus heals a slew of people after the sun has gone down. Jesus brings light to their lives late into the evening. Do you ever feel like it's "too late" for Jesus to show up? When have you felt like a situation was "too far gone" for Jesus to do anything?
3. Read Psalm 121:1-4. What do you think about the claim that God doesn't sleep, but incessantly watches over us?
4. Re-read verse 42. Jesus spends all evening healing people and then rises early the next morning to go out to a solitary place to spend time with God. What do you think about this?
5. We see Jesus working with the Spirit late into the evening, and clinging to God early in the morning. What do you cling to at the margins of your day? What do you focus on at the beginning and end of each day?
6. Author C.S. Lewis spoke of the importance of focusing on God each morning. He wrote, "...the very moment you wake up each morning. All your wishes and hopes for the day rush at you like wild animals. And the first job each morning consists simply in shoving them all back; in listening to that other voice, taking that other point of view, letting that other, larger, stronger life come flowing in."¹ What do you think about the imagery of all your wishes and hopes for the day rushing at you like wild animals?
7. How can prayer, silence, and reading scripture combat this daily onslaught in your life?

¹C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*, (San Francisco: Harper One, 2001), 168.



IN: Connect with Each Other

Are there any places in your life that you currently need Jesus to bring light? Are there any areas where it feels like things are "too far gone" or that it's "too late" for Jesus to show up? Take time to pray for these things as a group or by breaking off into 2s and 3s.



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

A few weeks ago, Pastor Tim called us to re-consider how First Pres can become a great place to meet Christ. As you've sat with this the last few weeks, what has come to mind in terms of how we could grow in this area as a congregation?