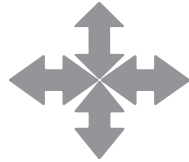




GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of March 10th

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:

1. If your group is meeting for the first time or has new members, take time to introduce yourselves around the circle. What is your name?, etc. What are you hoping to get out of these next 6 weeks?
2. If your group is continuing from the fall with no new members... Who do you consider to be one of the "wisest" people in your life? What makes them wise?



UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word

Read aloud the passages for the week: 1 Corinthians 1:17-24. Allow a few moments to silently reflect on what you heard. Underline or note words or phrases that seem meaningful.

1. Re-read verse 18. Why does the world consider the cross to be foolishness? How is the message of the cross "the power of God"?
2. Re-read verse 20. Who does our society consider as "wise authorities" of our age? (Scholars? Celebrities? Etc.?) Why do we give them this level of authority?
3. How can we determine what "wisdom" from these sources has merit, and what should be ignored?
4. Re-read verses 22-23. The idea of God sending His Son to die on the cross is the most profound, and for many, the most ridiculous statement that could ever be made. What sorts of reactions do you typically get from non-Christians when you communicate this truth?
5. Our message is not an argument. It is a testimony to an amazing and awe-inspiring event: the life, death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth who must have been the Son of God. Who in your life needs to hear this testimony? What would it take for you to share this with them?



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

If you are a new group: Discuss how you can best support one another in the spaces God currently has you. (Maybe commit to pray for each other's witness in your workplace, maybe name a person in your life who you intend to bring along to Easter worship services that the group can be praying for, etc...)

If you are a continuing group: Take time to discuss how your group could take one step towards being "outwardly" focused as a group in the next 6 weeks. (Maybe invite a new person into the group, host a BBQ for the neighborhood, serve once with one of our local mission partners, etc...)



IN: Connect with Each Other

Take time to share prayer requests for the upcoming week, and then pray for these things as a group.