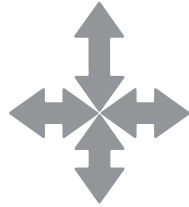




GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of March 17th

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:

If your group is meeting for the first time, take time to introduce yourselves around the circle. What is your name, job, etc. What are you hoping to get out of these next 5 weeks?

If your group is continuing or met for the first time last week: In your family, what is or was the standard way to "make things right" after a conflict? Is "I'm sorry" enough? Or do you have another practice that often accompanies that?



UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word

Read aloud the passage for the week: Hebrews 10:4-10. 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. Ancient Israel had an annual ritual called the "Day of Atonement." (described in Leviticus 16) On this day, the head priest slaughtered a bull and a goat and sprinkled their blood on top of the ark of the covenant. Then the priest would take a live goat, lay hands on it, and confess the sins of Israel on their behalf. Once this was done, someone was appointed to take the goat far into the wilderness and release it. In this way, Israel's sins for the past year would be banished from them. They could once again consider themselves to be in "right-relationship" with the Lord. What do you think about this ceremony?
2. Reread verse 4. The "Day of Atonement" and other sacrifices weren't a permanent solution. The author of Hebrews points out that they were only a shadow of the good things that were to come (10:1) and that it was ultimately impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to fully remove sin. What would it have been like to regularly be offering sacrifices back then? What would it be like if this was still a standard practice today?
3. Reread verse 10. On the cross, Christ offered a perfect and complete sacrifice, once-and-for-all. What do you think it would have been like for first-century Jewish Christians to go from regularly sacrificing animals to atone for sin to putting their faith in a sacrificed savior?

4. Verse 10 says that we have been made “holy” by Christ’s sacrifice. We are not just covered over, or passed by (like the Passover event in Exodus 12), but we are made new in Christ because of His perfect sacrifice. How has your life become “new” since coming to faith in Christ?
5. Do you ever find it challenging to accept God’s forgiveness?



IN: Connect with Each Other

One of the primary aspects of a Life Group is taking time to pray meaningfully for each other. Take a few minutes to share prayer requests and then pray for one another.

Discuss whether your group would like to email or text out a list of these requests so the group can continue praying throughout the week.



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

If tonight is your first gathering as a 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 their workplace, etc.)

If you are a continuing group: Take a few minutes to name a person in your life who you could invite to come along with you to an Easter worship service. How will you invite them?

Close your time by praying for these people by name.