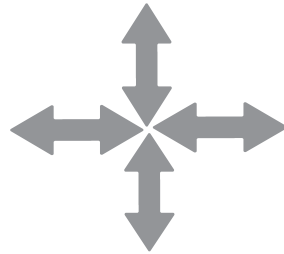




GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of April 5th

Friends, humanity is being rocked right now by needing to physically distance ourselves from one another. For the Christian, we do this out of love for neighbor. Fight hard to distinguish these two realities: physically distancing and relationally separating.

Now is the time to become the greatest artist you have ever been. Create ways to stay relationally and spiritually tethered to your core circle. We need each other. We are gifts to one another! Make phone calls; text photographs; set up video gatherings. Together, we are the hands and feet of Christ to one another and this city!



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.

Sermon: Jesus – He Set Things Right (Matthew 21:1-13)

Key Verse:

“My house will be called a house of prayer,”
but you are making it a den of robbers.

Matthew 21:13

Getting Started:

If you're willing and able, share a moment when you've been fearful. Describe what your heart, mind, and body felt while experiencing fear.

Time of Prayer

Together, begin with prayer. Lift up this present hour to the Lord. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide and guard your time together. Pray that God will use this time to further direct your heart to Him, to walk in all His ways. Pray that your time together results in the further inbreaking of the Kingdom of Heaven, which heals our hearts and brings salvation ever closer to the yet-believing community around us as we move toward our neighbors in the love and strength of Christ.



UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word

Together as a group, read aloud Matthew 21:13.

Allow a few moments to silently reflect on what you heard. Underline or note any words or phrases that seem meaningful.

1. What did Pastor Tim share about the significance of Jesus entering through the East Gate?
2. After entering Jerusalem for His final week, where in the city did Jesus go first, what did he do there, and why did He do it?
3. Jesus says, "My house will be called a house of prayer." Why is prayer so important to Jesus and how ought this priority of Jesus' shape our own behavior today?



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

Create a "house of prayer" for this city. Spend time praying that God, because of His infinite mercy and strength, will bring His healing and salvation to the people of Colorado Springs in an even greater capacity. Identify needs around you and commit them to the Lord in prayer. Celebrate that prayer is a central way in which the people of God join God in His mission.



IN: Connect with Each Other

COVID-19:

Spend time connecting with one another on how you are doing.

What are you most grieving in this season? Who within your social sphere is hurting the most? How might you and your Life Group be the hands and feet of Christ in this situation?

Pastor Tim quotes Oswald Chambers, "The remarkable thing about God is that when you fear God, you fear nothing else, whereas if you do not fear God, you fear everything else." Tie this thought into what Paul writes in Colossians 3:3, "For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God." Discuss what comes to mind, including the topics of fear, faith, and hope.

Pressing into the level of vulnerability that your group has built to date, close your time in prayer. Celebrating that Jesus Sets Things Right, confess and rejoice together. Invite the Spirit to minister to your hearts. Ask God to give you the spiritual eyes to see how He desires to use you to be His witness in the coming days. Groups of 3 – 5 are ideal for this intimate, crucial time together.

As you enter into Holy Week, what can you do to be most present with God and your community?