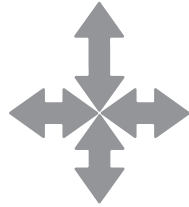




GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of April 8th

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 you are a new Life Group, start your study here):

When you were a kid, what did you look forward to more, Christmas or your birthday? Why?



UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word

Read together our passage for the week, Romans 8:11, 14-25. Allow a few moments to silently reflect on what you heard. Read it one more time together. Pray for your study of God's Word.

1. What do you notice about our passage? What questions do you have after reading the passage?
2. Re-read verse 11. In your own words, what is the Apostle Paul saying?
3. What does it mean to be an heir of God and co-heir with Christ? How does this truth change the way you live today?
4. Re-read verses 22-23. What does it mean that creation is groaning? In what ways do we as followers of Jesus groan?
5. How would you respond to the following question: What is our ultimate hope as followers of Jesus?

Going Deeper: What is a word, phrase, or thought from today's passage or from our time together that God seems to be lifting up as significant for you? How does it speak to a current situation in your life? How is God inviting you to respond?



IN: Connect with Each Other

As you feel comfortable, share one area in your life where you need hope today. Pray for each other that the Lord would fill you with deep expectancy and hope.



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

God passionately cares about the world He made. The world He is redeeming. God calls us to join Him in His redemptive work. How can we grow in our love for God's world? What specific practices help grow us and shape us to better love and serve God's world? In the midst of serving and loving those around us, how can hope in Jesus sustain us?