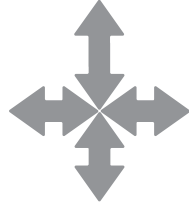




GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of April 29th

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

Recap From Last Week

Last week we talked about looking for a person who seems to be "in over her/his head" in a particular task. We were prompted to pray and encourage that person. How did it go? How did you see God at work?

Get Started:

What's one of your funnier quirks?



UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word

Read aloud the passage for the week: Jonah 3:1-10. Allow a few moments to silently reflect on what you heard. Underline or note words or phrases that seem meaningful. 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. What brought Jonah to the point of obedience?
3. Read Jonah's message to the Ninevites in verse 4. What is the content of Jonah's message? What do you think was the attitude of Jonah as he preached in Nineveh?
4. What is our attitude when God reaches through us to those we think undeserving or ungrateful? Where does this attitude originate?
5. God's story breaks into ours. It's a story of grace. Re-read verses 8 and 9. In your own words, what is the king of Nineveh saying? How does the king's behavior contrast with that of Jonah's?

Going Deeper: What word, phrase or thought from today's passage or from your time together is God 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

Jonah is a wonderful example of God's unending, untiring grace even when we resist that grace. Briefly describe how you have seen God's grace bring a "turnaround" in your life.



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

God's grace flows through us to others. We are blessed to be a blessing. Who are the Ninevites in our world? How does God want us to connect with them?

Spend some time praying for those who are far from God. Ask God for a heart like His.