

GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION: week of May 19th.

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

Getting Started:

Describe someone who was a source of goodness, hope, or truth for you as a child.

UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word

Read aloud the passage for the week: Deuteronomy 11:18-21. Allow a few moments to silently reflect on what you heard. Underline or note any words or phrases that seem meaningful.

- 1) Reread verse 18. The Jewish people saw this as a literal command and physically bound the law to their heads and arms (Orthodox and conservative Jews still do this today for prayer; the bindings are called phylacteries or tefillin). Christians don't do this (though some people tattoo verses on their bodies). How do you go about "fixing" God's words, God's law to your heart and mind?
- 2) God warns that the Israelites will be tempted to worship other gods, and so "fixing these words" in their hearts and minds was an important step in resisting this temptation. What role has scripture played in your life?
- 3) Reread verse 19. As a society, we seek to "teach our children" a lot of things. There are extensive demands on schoolteachers to meet district and state standards and there are standardized tests to continually evaluate kid's learning. What role does God's law have in today's world?
- 4) How are you already working to teach God's word to the children in your life (or in our church)?
- 5) What steps could you take to more intentionally teach God's word to the children in your life or in our church?
- 6) Reread verse 20. How can we make our homes spaces that help us better hear God's word? Or that can better remind us of God's word?

IN: Connect with Each Other

Many of your groups are wrapping up for summer, or preparing to go on break. Take a few moments to discuss the months ahead and anticipate any prayer requests or ways you can support one another in the summer months.

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

Pray for the Family Ministry efforts at First Pres. Pray for the volunteer leaders serving children, teenagers, and young adults in our midst. Pray for the staff who are leading these efforts. Consider whether there are other ways you can contribute to these efforts.