

GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION: week of May 26th.

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:

Was there a moment when someone saved you? Maybe they saved you from physical danger, from getting in trouble, or from an embarrassing situation?

UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word

Read aloud the passage for the week: Psalm 40:11-13. Allow a few moments to silently reflect on what you heard. Underline or note any words or phrases that seem meaningful.

- 1) Reread verse 11. Has there ever been a time when you felt like God was withholding his mercy from you? How did you feel or react? How did you make it through that season?
- 2) Has there ever been a time when you felt like God's love and faithfulness protected you? How did you feel or react? When are you the most aware of God's love?
- 3) Reread verse 12-13. David is overwhelmed by trouble. There seems to be no way out of his situation and he seems to be losing hope, but in the midst of this he calls out to the Lord for help. What is your first instinct when you are in a frustrating or challenging situation?
- 4) What do these verses have to say about how we become "unstuck" in life?
- 5) In what ways has God "saved" or "helped" you?

IN: Connect with Each Other

Perhaps in your conversation someone has named a particularly difficult situation they are currently in. Take time in your group to pray for that person (or those people). Pray that the Lord would save them and would be faithful to his promises in the midst of their struggle.

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

Many of the stories shared tonight are testimonies of God's work. In verse 10 of this psalm, David says that he will not keep quiet in the community of faith about God's work in his life. How can you follow suit and continue to share these stories?