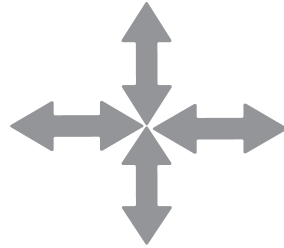




## GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of June 21st

*Slowly, we are learning how to walk in a new atmosphere. Grace is the word. Grace. John opens his gospel saying, "For from his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace." Of all the peoples of the world, the children of God must walk in the grace of God if we are to reflect this core attribute of God. This summer the word is grace. In exactly the pace at which the Lord is leading you through Covid-19, may his grace abound to you.*

*Now is the time to become the greatest artist you have ever been. Continue to create ways to stay relationally and spiritually tethered to your core circle. We need each other. We are gifts to one another! 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: I've Come to Believe – Jesus Brings Life (Romans 8:1-17)**

### **KeyVerse:**

"Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."  
Romans 8:1

### **Getting Started:**

What words come to mind and what emotions are stirred when you hear the statement:  
"The year 2020 is almost halfway over."?

### **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.

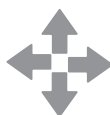


## UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word

Together as a group, read aloud Romans 8:1-17.

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

1. According to Romans 8:2, what amazing thing happens to us when we are placed in Christ?
2. Paul uses the word "flesh" to mean all that which is not of the righteousness of God. Throughout verses 5-13, compare and contrast life in the flesh to life in the Spirit.
3. Together as a group, reflect on the significance of being declared a "child of God" in verses 14-17.
4. Celebrating that Romans 8 is astonishingly dense, what other themes from this section of Romans 8 do you sense your group needs to process together?



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

1. Romans 8:1 states, "Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." The children of God are the set free people of the world. How does this change our demeanor? How does your attitude change knowing that you have been freed, but so many people you encounter in the highways and byways of life are still living under the "bondage to decay" (8:21)? Together as a group, pray for your hearts to break for the brokenness of humanity and to have the courage to share the greatest news of all, that in Christ Jesus there is no condemnation!



## IN: Connect with Each Other

In our current series you are invited to fill out the journal mailed to you. Host a conversation on this week's journal entry. Encourage, exhort, and speak the truth in love to one another.

Pressing into the level of vulnerability that your group has built to date, close your time in prayer. Celebrating that God sent his son to cover your sin, 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.