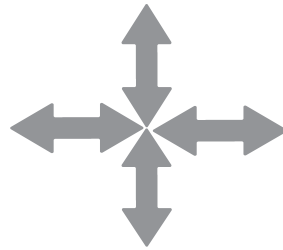




GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of June 28th

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 – God Has Plans for Me (Romans 8:18-30)

KeyVerse:

"... we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose... to be conformed to the image of his Son.

Romans 8:28-29

Getting Started:

Describe something that is truly "glorious".

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 8:18-30.

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

1. Why does Paul compare our present suffering to our future glory?
2. Why is all of creation “frustrated” and “groaning”?
3. Host a conversation about God working all of your life circumstances for “good”. What is the “good” the author (Paul) has in mind here?



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

1. This week we lift our heads up to see the eternal and glorious plans God has for his people and then we are challenged to take that eternal vision and allow it to shape our every decision in the here and now. In other words, we are challenged to allow all of our todays to be primarily influenced by all of our sure tomorrows. Give an example of how your decision-making might be different by first thinking of your identity in Christ and the world’s great need of salvation.



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 has plans for you, 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.