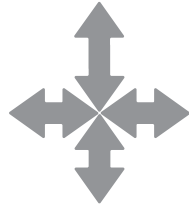




GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of June 3rd

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

Get Started:

What are your plans for the summer? What are you most looking forward to?



UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word

Read aloud the passage for the week: Ephesians 1:1-14. Allow a few moments to silently reflect on what you heard. Underline or note words or phrases that seem meaningful. Pray for your study of God's Word.

1. If you were one of the Christians who initially received Paul's letter, what would have been your first impression of what Paul shared in today's passage? What would have been encouraging? Challenging?
2. The Apostle Paul wrote Ephesians in prison. What seems to be on Paul's mind while in prison? If you had been in Paul's place, what would you have written about?
3. Pay attention to the prepositions in this passage (words like "in" and "through"). Where do we find ourselves, according to these phrases? What do we find there?
4. In verse 3 Paul says, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ." What is a non-spiritual blessing? What are the spiritual blessings Paul goes on to list?
5. In verses 5-11 what are we told about God's will? What is the ultimate purpose of His will?
6. When you think of God's will or plan, what do you typically think about?
7. When do you have a hard time trusting God's plan? How does this passage encourage you trust that you belong to God and God is in control?



IN: Connect with Each Other

Paul says that all of us have been adopted as God's children through Jesus Christ. We are now brothers and sisters in Christ. We go from ME to WE. A key piece of what it means to be a Life Group is to pray meaningfully for each other. Take some time and share prayer requests with each other and then pray for one another.



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

God has a plan! In the week ahead ask the Lord to guide you and direct your steps. Try an experiment: each morning ask God to lead you throughout your day. Then reflect back later this week with these questions. Who did God bring across your path? How did you see God directing you? What conversations or circumstances opened up in the course of your normal day? Share with folks in your Life Group next week.