



GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of June 23rd

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:

Describe one thing that is a source of joy for you (maybe a hobby, something in nature, or even a person?).



UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word

Read aloud the passages for the week: Acts 2:22-32. Allow a few moments to silently reflect on what you heard. Underline or note words or phrases that seem meaningful.

1. Reread verse 22. God used various means to validate Jesus before the people, and yet they couldn't see him for who he is. What sorts of things get in the way of people's abilities to see and know Jesus in our era and context?
2. Reread verse 32. Peter's words are true for us today as well. In what ways do we continue to bear witness to God's resurrection of Jesus?
3. The Holy Spirit is not explicitly named here, but, where do you see the work of the Holy Spirit implied in these verses?
4. The Nicene Creed, one of the ancient summaries of the Christian faith, describes the work of the Holy Spirit this way:
*"We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.
He proceeds from the Father and the Son,
and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified.
He spoke through the prophets..."¹*

Where do these statements lend insight to the Holy Spirit's work in the passage?

5. What implications are there in this passage about how the Spirit continues to move today?



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

The Holy Spirit is the giver of life. This Spirit-given-life should spill out to others and be a source of joy. Name one person in your life who is especially in need of the life and the joy that the Spirit offers. Spend time praying for these people.



IN: Connect with Each Other

Once again, close your time together with this ancient prayer of the church:

*Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful.
And kindle in them the fire of your love.
Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.
And you will renew the face of the earth.
Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit
you have taught the hearts of your faithful.
In the same Spirit help us to relish what is right
and always rejoice in your consolation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.²*

¹Nicene Creed, <https://www.crcna.org/welcome/beliefs/creeds/nicene-creed>.

²"Prayer to the Holy Spirit," Loyola Press, 2019, <https://www.loyolapress.com/our-catholic-faith/prayer/traditional-catholic-prayers/prayers-every-catholic-should-know/prayer-to-the-holy-spirit?p=1>.