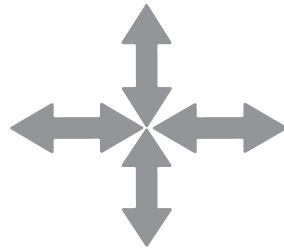




GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of July 5th

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 – I Belong to God (Romans 8:31-39)

Key Verse:

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 8:38-39

Getting Started:

How strong is the love of God?

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.

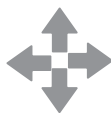


UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word

Together as a group, read aloud Romans 8:31-39.

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

1. We know that God will go to extreme lengths to save his people. What example of God's willingness to go to extreme measures for our sake is given in verse 32?
2. Why does Paul remind us that "it is God who justifies" in verse 33?
3. Our passage this week culminates in the declaration that the people of God will never be separated from what? Why is this such good news?



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

1. Pastor Nate reminds us this week of the first question/answer of the Heidelberg Catechism: "Q. What is your only comfort, in life and in death? A. That I belong—body and soul, in life and in death—not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ..." Take time to process as a group how this bedrock truth of the Christian faith impacts how you live on mission for God in all you do.



IN: Connect with Each Other

Your Greatest Story continues in growing your identity-roots as a child of God. Though the earth shakes, you belong to God. Though circumstances can change quickly, you belong to God. Though life can throw you unceasing curve balls, you belong to God. The great hope of the Christian faith is that nothing, NOTHING, is stronger than our loving Father and when he lays claim on your life nothing will get in the way of your eternal security in the very near presence of God.

In this final week of 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 you belong fully to God, 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.