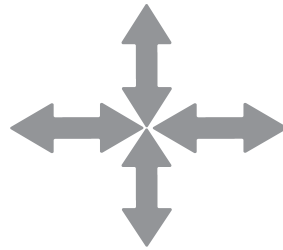




GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of July 19th

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: The Bible Top 5 - God Backs Me Up (Joshua 1:1-9)

Key Verse:

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9

Getting Started:

When have you most wanted God's help with something?

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 Joshua 1:1-9.

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

1. Who is God addressing in our passage this week and what is the context?
2. God charges Joshua with the same command three separate times. What is the command? Why do you think God repeats the command three times?
3. What do we learn from God regarding his Word ("the law" in Joshua's context) from verses 7 and 8? How does this apply to your own life today?



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

1. In his sermon this week, Pastor Tim writes, "Who is serving whom? Are you trying to enlist God for your agenda, or are you willing to be enlisted for God's agenda? Are you trying to sign God up to serve you, or are you willing to give your all to serve God? I think this is one of the hardest shifts to make." This is one of the hardest shifts to make because we all start out with a tendency to presume we are "god," the fallen-induced symptom to presume that our way is the right way. How does joining God's team and God's mission, and not the other way around, shape your understanding of living on mission for God each and every day?



IN: Connect with Each Other

Joshua 1:9 contains an incredible promise of presence from God to Joshua, but in Matthew 28:20 we find that God's promise of presence is extended to all his children: "And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." This is one of the most bedrock promises in all of Scripture. God is with you. We sense God's presence to varying degrees at different times, but his promise is sure. Host a conversation on how you feel, and how you don't feel, God's presence with you in this season. Share your heart's requests around this topic.

Pressing into the level of vulnerability that your group has built to date, close your time in prayer. Celebrating that God promises to be with 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.