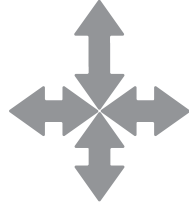




GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of July 22nd

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:

Where do you fall in the birth order of your family? What (if anything) does this reveal about you?



UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word

Read aloud the passage for the week: Ephesians 4:17-32. 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. Paul is calling the Christians in Ephesus to break from their former way of living. Paul says, "You must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking." What about the Gentiles' thinking is futile? What is Paul talking about?
2. How does the darkened understanding lead to the life of sensuality described in this passage?
3. What are the differences between the old self and the new self?
4. In describing the way we ought to live together, Paul begins his list by requiring us to "put off falsehood and speak truthfully." Why is that first?
5. In what ways does being connected in a small group, a community, require and facilitate our transformation? How have you grown or experienced transformation from being a part of a smaller community (this Life Group or another group)?
6. God is at work in your life right now! The key to our discipleship is surrender. What do you need to "let go" of or "put down" in your life right now in order to take hold of what Christ has for you?



IN: Connect with Each Other

Spend some time collecting prayer requests and then pray for one another. Pray too that each of you would know the grace and power of the Lord at work this week in YOU!



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

If community is so vital for our walk with Christ, our ability to become like Him, being lonely is not only a social concern, but a spiritual one. How can you reach out to someone who is isolated and invite them in? Think of one person that you can connect with in the coming week.