

GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION: week of July 21st.

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

Getting Started:

What were you known for in high school? How would your classmates have described you? (Class clown? Bookworm? High Achiever? Athlete? Etc.)

UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word

Read aloud the passage for the week: Luke 9:18-27. Allow a few moments to silently reflect on what you heard. Underline or note any words or phrases that seem meaningful.

1) Reread verses 18-19. This is what the people at that time thought about Jesus. What does our society say about Jesus? How is Jesus talked about in the media, public spaces, etc.?

2) How does this align with, or run contrary to your understanding of who Jesus is?

3) Reread verses 20-22. The term Messiah means “anointed one” or God’s chosen one. For the Jews, this term referred to a royal figure who would play a crucial role in the final days.¹ If you were one of the disciples listening to Jesus respond to Peter, what would be going through your mind?

4) Reread verses 23-24. What does it mean to “take up one’s cross daily”?

5) These verses are a somewhat confusing twist on common logic. How does losing one’s life for Jesus ultimately result in “saving it”?

6) How does this passage challenge you to grow in your knowledge of Christ’s Kingdom?

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

Reread verse 20. Who do you say Jesus is? If you agree with Peter that Jesus is God’s anointed one, how should this influence the way you interact with the people around you? Your co-workers, neighbors, family, etc.?

IN: Connect with Each Other

Summer is already starting to wind down as the school year starts up in just a few weeks. Take a few minutes to share your hopes and plans for the rest of the summer and pray for these things as a group.

¹ Donald Juel, *Eerdmans Dictionary of the Bible*, s.v. “MESSIAH,” (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2000), 889-890.