

GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION: week of July 28th.

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:

Describe a time when you had to trust someone in a situation where you didn't know the outcome. (*Maybe learning to rock climb, going under anesthesia for a surgery, flying on an airplane, etc.*) What was challenging about this experience? Why was it challenging?

UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word

Read aloud the passage for the week: Luke 12:22-34. Allow a few moments to silently reflect on what you heard. Underline or note any words or phrases that seem meaningful.

- 1) What is worry? What are the effects of worry in your life?
- 2) Reread verses 22–23. When was the last time you worried about these things?
- 3) What do you tend to worry about?
- 4) Reread verses 25-26. What do you think about these questions? Are they encouraging or inspiring in any way?
- 5) Reread verse 29. The word translated “worry” in this verse is often used in Greek to describe a ship at sea being tossed back and forth in a storm.¹ When has worry made you feel “tossed back and forth”?
- 6) Reread verse 30-31. Disciples of Jesus are called to focus their efforts on something different than the world focuses on. If we do this, how will our lives look different from our non-Christian neighbors?
- 7) Reread verses 32-34. Do Jesus's instructions here seem feasible? How have you been able to live out this command? When have you struggled to do this?
- 8) 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)

Many people in our city, our nation, and our world are experiencing food insecurity. They are not sure where their next meal will come from, or they can't ensure that they will have enough to carry their family through the week. How can you respond to this reality individually or as a group?

IN: Connect with Each Other

As you close your time in prayer, take a few minutes to name the things that are weighing on each of the people in your group. What is keeping them up at night? What are they most concerned about or uncertain of right now? Surrender these things to the Lord in prayer, asking God to provide for the needs of the group members.

¹ James Edwards, *The Gospel According to Luke*, Pillar NT Commentary, (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2015), 375.