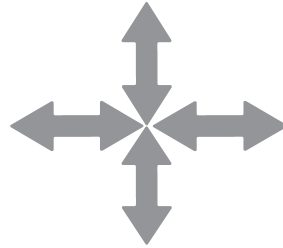




GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of August 9th

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: Bible Top 5 – Will I Be Rich? (Jeremiah 29:10-14)

KeyVerse:

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord,
"plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (v11)

Getting Started:

What plans did you have for summer 2020? How have your plans been going?

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 Jeremiah 29:10-14.

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

1. What condition does God place on his promise at the end of verse 13?
2. The Hebrew word that is translated “prosper” in verse 11 is “shalom.” One key meaning of “shalom” is to be whole and complete, especially in relationship with God and neighbor. Reread verse 11 and replace “prosper” with “shalom.” Host a discussion about how this does or does not alter your understanding of the text this week.



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

1. Pastor Jennifer writes, “we’ll have to move over our images of Tahiti, the mountain chalet, the secluded beach house...any picture of paradise that we are reaching for that allows us to “exit” the world and replace it with a growing desire to be in right relationship with the God of the universe and rightly connected with the people (around us, in our homes and right next door).” God’s word through Jeremiah this week is a word to flee comfort-rooted escapism and say yes to God’s desire to use you as an agent of healing, of shalom, to the world around you. How can you take a step toward building shalom around you this week (be specific)?



IN: Connect with Each Other

Often, our plans do not align with God’s plans for us. Host a conversation about what it has been like this year to adjust your plans. How might God be at work in your life this year in ways you did not expect?

Pressing into the level of vulnerability that your group has built to date, close your time in prayer. Celebrating that God’s plans for you include his shalom, 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.