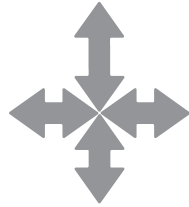




GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of August 5th

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:

Who is one of your heroes?



UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word

Read aloud the passage for the week: Ephesians 5:21-6:9. 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. Imagine you are one of the Christians in Ephesus who initially received Paul's letter. You live in a patriarchal society where women, children, and slaves are powerless. How would Paul's words and instructions have struck you? In what ways would they have been shocking?
2. Re-read verse 21. In your own words, what does it mean to "submit to one another?" What does it mean to do this "out of reverence for Christ?"
3. Read Galatians 3:28 together. How does the Apostle Paul describe the new reality in Christ? How does this new reality impact how we treat one another?
4. In what ways are Paul's words from our passage in Ephesians challenging you right now? What do you think the Lord is saying to you about your relationships?
5. What does it look like for us as a group to lovingly submit to one another? What are practical ways we can do this?



IN: Connect with Each Other

Take some time to pray for each other. Specifically, take time to pray for key relationships in each of your lives: friendships, marriages, working relationships, families.



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

Jesus says in John 13:35, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." How we treat each other matters! Our relationships provide a witness to a watching world and we get to invite people into our community life. Consider hosting an end of summer BBQ or a game night as a Life Group. Invite friends or neighbors to come and join in on the fun!