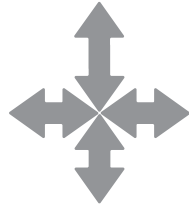




## GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of August 19th

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:

If your group is meeting for the first time, take time to introduce yourselves around the circle. What is your name?, etc. What are you hoping to get out of these next 11 weeks?

What was one of the best aspects of the summer? What was challenging? (Highs/lows)



### **UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word**

Read aloud the passage for the week: Exodus 20:1-3. 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. The first part of the book of Exodus tells the story of how God miraculously freed Israel from slavery in Egypt, miraculously sustained them in the desert with manna and water and then renewed His relationship with them. These verses are the first stipulation in that relationship. Is God asking too much from the Israelites with this first commandment? Why or why not?
2. The Israelites would later struggle to live out this command. They regularly adopted the gods of the neighboring nations, thinking that they could have the tabernacle/temple, the sacrifices, be worshippers of Yahweh AND have a little Baal or Asherah or Dagon on the side. Is there really a problem in trying to worship these other gods alongside Yahweh?
3. Jesus said, "No one can serve two masters. Either you will hate the one and love the other, or you will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money" (Matthew 6:24). What do you think about this? In what ways does this reinforce the first commandment?
4. Theologian Augustine of Hippo determined that people are most often discontent because their loves are "out of order." He realized that what a person loves most is what most influences their actions in any moment. If you were fully committed to loving Jesus above all else, what would be different about your life?
5. Have you determined whether you desire God to be Lord of your life? If yes, what does this mean for you? If no, why not?



### **IN: Connect with Each Other**

One of the primary aspects of a Life Group is taking time to pray meaningfully for each other. Go around the circle and share something coming up in the next week which you are anxious about. Close this time by either praying for each individual, or with one all-encompassing prayer that surrenders these concerns to God.



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

As your group is looking towards the upcoming fall together, initiate a brainstorming conversation about how your group could be outwardly focused. Will you sign up for City Serve together? If you meet in a neighborhood, is there a way in which you could bless your neighbors? How can your group actively demonstrate that Jesus is Lord of your lives this fall?