

GUIDE FOR GROUP DISCUSSION: week of August 11<sup>th</sup>.

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:**

How did you decide "What you wanted to be when you grew up"? How did you decide to pursue the path you're on?

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

Read aloud the passage for the week: Luke 18:35-43. Allow a few moments to silently reflect on what you heard. Underline or note any words or phrases that seem meaningful.

1) Reread verses 38-39. This man refuses to sit silently in his pain any longer. When have you found yourself in a situation where you could no longer "sit quietly" or go with the flow? A time when you've needed to cry out to God for help? How did God meet you in that time?

2) In *The Problem of Pain*, C.S. Lewis wrote, "...pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world." What do you think about this? When has pain allowed you to hear God more clearly?

3) Reread verses 40-41. The man is obviously blind and begging. What do you think about Jesus's approach in this moment? Why do you think he would ask the man this question when he can clearly see what's wrong?

4) If Jesus was to ask you this question right now, what would you say? What do you want from Jesus right now?

5) What do you think our desires have to do with how God works in our lives?

6) Reread verse 42. Jesus says that the man's faith has healed him. Why do you think Jesus says this? Why is this significant?

7) 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 43. Jesus works in this man's life and it leads others to praise God. When was a time that God worked in your life? How might you share this in the coming week in a way that might encourage others to rejoice with you?

**IN: Connect with Each Other**

The desires of our hearts shape our lives and bend our habits. Our hearts must be drawn toward Jesus, not what Jesus can do for us, but Jesus Himself. Pray together that the Lord will teach you what to want, that he will stir up desires in you that align with his will for you.