



GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of September 16th

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 coming weeks?

What character trait or piece of wisdom did a parent or another mentor (coach, teacher, pastor, etc.) pass on to you which has served you throughout life?



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

A few weeks ago your group started brainstorming some ways it could be "outwardly focused." (If you didn't get to this in a previous week, spend 5-10 minutes thinking of ways in which you could do this... See the "Up, In, Out Ideas" page in the Leader Handbook)

Take a few moments to follow up on this conversation. Has anything risen up that you could follow up on? Has anyone had something specific on their heart for the last few weeks?

CityServe is around the corner (October 6). Consider serving together at a site as a Life Group. (Information and registration at <http://www.first-pres.org/event/2018-10-05-cityserve-weekend-2018/>)



UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word

Read aloud the passage for the week: : Exodus 20:12 and Ephesians 6:1-4. Allow a few moments to silently reflect on what you heard. Underline or note words or phrases that seem meaningful.

1. Re-read Exodus 20:12. What does it mean to honor someone? Does "honoring" involve action? Or is it more like a state of mind or opinion you have about someone/something? Explain your response.

2. What is the difference between honoring, loving, caretaking, admiring, and dignifying? What is similar in these terms (and other synonyms) and what is implied by these other terms that is not part of "honoring"?
3. Re-read Ephesians 6:1-4. The Israelites are called to honor their parents in order to "live long in the land", and the Ephesians are called to the same thing so they may "enjoy long life on the earth". What kind of relationship exists between honoring parents and the ability to enjoy long life?
4. Many people have difficult or strained relationships with the people who raised them. What does it look like for them to "honor" these people? If your parents have passed away, are there ways you can still honor them or begin to honor them?
5. Part of submitting to Jesus as "Lord of my life" is recognizing my responsibility to submit to other authorities such as parents, government, boss, etc. There is something God teaches us in submission. At this point in your life, what "authorities" exist in your life? How do you choose whom to honor? (Is this based on their character? Position or role? Accomplishments?)
6. What are some of the ways you currently "honor" your parents and these authorities? In what ways do you struggle with honoring parents and other authorities?



IN: Connect with Each Other

Take 5-10 minutes at the end of each group to break off into prayer partners (2s or 3s). Share prayer requests and then pray for one another. Commit to praying for your partner throughout the week. Maybe even exchange phone numbers and text one another a few times to check in about those concerns.