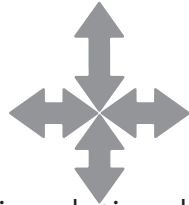




## GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of September 22nd

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:

- ❖ Describe a time when you hoped for something and it actually happened! (Maybe a toy at Christmas, a job, or a car?)



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

Read aloud the passage for the week: Isaiah 65:17-25. 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. What are some of the characteristics of God's new creation that are described in these verses?
2. This new creation will be a delight and its people will be a joy. Where do you see evidence of these sorts of things already coming to fruition in our world? Where is God's kingdom already "breaking in"?
3. Throughout this passage, God has a lot of "no more" and "never again" statements. No more weeping, no more shortened lives, no more back-breaking labor for someone else's gain, no more harm and destruction. What kinds of things would you add to this list? When you look at our world, what sorts of things will have no place in God's new creation?
4. Read Isaiah 2:3-5. Isaiah is bookended by these two visions of new creation. Visions of unprecedented peace, joy, light, and life. How might these visions provide hope to people who feel stuck? Who feel like they never make any progress in life?
5. How might these visions of God's end-goal for creation serve as an encouragement to you in this season of life?
6. In what ways might this passage challenge you to think differently about what it means to be human?



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

Think of a person in your life who is stuck. Think of someone who isn't making progress and is stuck tirelessly spinning their wheels with little hope for the future.

Brainstorm together... How might you help them move forward? How might sharing the good news of God's coming Kingdom provide a glimmer of hope?



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

Close by gathering prayer requests from the group. Then, assign one person to lift those things up in prayer. Close your group time by praying together the Lord's Prayer:

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever.  
Amen.*