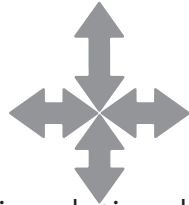




GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of September 29th

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 were able to participate in reconciliation between two parties (maybe between you and someone else, maybe you mediated a conversation for others, etc.).



UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word

Read aloud the passage for the week: Luke 18:1-8. 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. Jesus's purpose in telling the parable is named in verse 1. "...to show them that they should always pray and not give up". Do you think Jesus accomplishes that with this parable? Why or why not?
2. Reread verse 3. The widow asks for justice against her adversary. What is the difference between "justice" and "revenge"?
3. How would you define justice? What examples of biblical justice can you think of? How is this similar or different than how the world describes justice?
4. What experiences do you have of prayers being answered? How long had you prayed for these things?
5. Do you have anything you've been praying for a long time that has not been answered? What has that been like?
6. Reread verses 7-8. Jesus affirms that God will respond to the prayers of his people for justice. When is this hard to believe? When is this encouraging or easier to believe?
7. In what ways might this passage challenge you to think differently about what it means to be human?



IN: Connect with Each Other

Gather prayer requests from the group. Is there anyone who is in a situation where they are longing for justice?



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

Close your time by praying for the requests you gathered, but also take time to pray for God's justice to come in our city, nation, and world. *(Leave space for group members to lift up in prayer the injustices that they see in the world).*