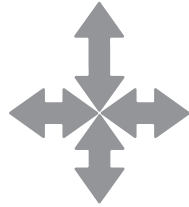




GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of February 25

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 (if you are a new Life Group, start your study here):

Share your name. What's your favorite story (film, book, play, etc.) and why?



IN: Connect With Each Other

What was the high point of your week? What was the low point?



UP: Connect With God Through Spending Time in His Word

Read together our passage for the week, Hebrews 4:6-13. Allow a few moments to silently reflect on what you heard. Read it one more time together. Pray for your study of God's Word.

1. What do you notice about our passage? What stands out to you? What questions do you have after reading the passage?
2. What does it mean to harden your heart? How does a hardened heart keep us from hearing God? Has there been a time or an issue in which you feel that you have harbored a heart that was hardened toward God?
3. Re-read verse 12. What does it mean that the Word of God is alive and active? Think of a time when Scripture cut through and spoke deeply to you or to a core issue in your life.
4. The passage tells us that nothing in all of creation is hidden from the sight of God. Is that comforting or convicting for you? Explain your response.
5. What does it mean that God's Word is authoritative and trustworthy? (See also: Proverbs 30:5 and 2 Timothy 3:16-17.)

Going Deeper:

6. What is a word, phrase or thought from today's passage or from our time together that God seems to be lifting up as significant for you? How does it speak to a current situation in your life? How is God inviting you to respond?



OUT: Connect With the World Around Us (Join God in His Mission)

Throughout our sermon series, we will look at questions to ask a skeptic or non-believer as a conversation starter. We raise these questions not to start an argument but to spur meaningful conversation.

What are some answers you have heard to this question: How do you think the Bible is different from other books?

Think about those around you, friends, family, co-workers: how would they answer that question?

Try it out: ask someone this question this week. What do you notice when you raise this question? What do you learn from their response? Perhaps ask a follow-up question to better understand your friend's perspective: What books have helped to shape your core beliefs?