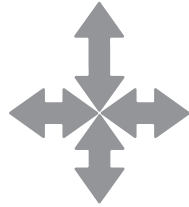




GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of March 4

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):

What was the spiritual environment like in the home where you were raised?



UP: Connect With God Through Spending Time in His Word

Read together our passage for the week, Hebrews 5:11-6:3. 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 stands out to you about our passage? What questions do you have after reading the passage?
2. What argument is the author of the book of Hebrews making in 5:12-14? What is the author's concern for his readers?
3. What abilities do the spiritually mature possess? What do you think the "solid food" of the mature is? Why is moving on to spiritual maturity so important?
4. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: "Faith doesn't end thinking. All good thinking starts with faith." Why?
5. In what ways has your faith in Christ included intellectual exploration?

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.

Does the idea of initiating conversation and asking questions of a skeptic or non-believer excite you, scare you or intrigue you? (Or does it bring about some other response?) Why do you think you respond in that way?

If you have asked someone a question from our sermon series, share with your Life Group what that experience was like.

Try it out this week and ask someone the following questions: In your experience, is faith at odds with intellect and creativity? Might true faith fuel good thinking and good art? What is your favorite piece of art from history? Or ask: what film has been most influential and meaningful for you? Do you see glimpses of God or the redemption story in good art?



IN: Connect With Each Other

Close out your time together by collecting prayer requests. Spend a few moments praying for each other.