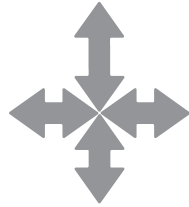




GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of March 18

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):

When is a time you found yourself in more than just a little pain? What brought relief?



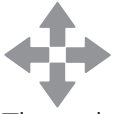
UP: Connect With God Through Spending Time in His Word

Read together our passage for the week, Hebrews 12:1-13. 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. Re-read verse 2. What does it mean to keep our eyes on Jesus, especially in the context of His experience of the cross? How does keeping our eyes on Jesus help us in times of suffering? What is of practical help in keeping your eyes on Jesus?
3. If someone said, "Suffering disproves the existence of God," what would you say in response?
4. What does it mean that God disciplines and corrects His children? How have you experienced this discipline?

Going Deeper:

5. 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.

Try it out this week and ask someone the following questions: Do you think God is inherently good? Why do you think people go through difficult times? Share with your Life Group next week.



IN: Connect With Each Other

Break into smaller groups. Share your prayer requests with one another and pray together.