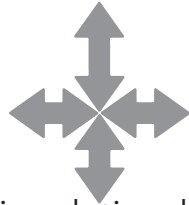




GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of November 25th

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:

What was a highlight from your Thanksgiving weekend? Were you aware of God at work in any of your interactions?



IN: Connect with Each Other

Take a few moments and pray for these stories and God sightings. Surrender any concerns or difficult relationships to the Lord.



UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word

Read aloud the passage for the week: Philippians 4:4-9 Allow a few moments to silently reflect on what you heard. Underline or note any words or phrases that seem meaningful.

1. Paul calls the Philippians to "Rejoice in the Lord always!" What are some practical ways you have practiced this in your own life?
2. Some seasons of life are much more challenging to rejoice in. What does it look like to rejoice when life is especially difficult?
3. Paul connects gentleness with an awareness of God's presence in our lives. What practices or postures can we engage in to become more mindful of God's work in our midst?

5. Re-read verses 6-7. Paul presents prayer as the cure for anxiety (rather than the self-medication and worry which we typically engage in). What do you think about Paul's instruction here? What role does prayer have in your life?
6. Re-read verse 8. What in our life gets in the way of us focusing on these things? What steps can we take to grow in our ability to do this?



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

Our church has "Carols and Cocoa" coming up in a few weeks. The church will have caroling packs available for all life groups so you can choose a night to go out and share the joy of the Lord with your neighborhood.

Spend a few minutes discussing whether your group would like to participate, and pick a night (mid-December) on the calendar to do this.