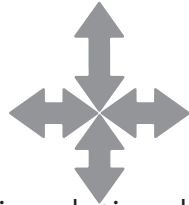




GUIDE FOR GROUP STUDY: the week of August 25th

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:

- ❖ If your group is meeting for the first time or has new members, take time to introduce yourselves around the circle. What is your name, etc. What are you hoping to get out of these next 10 weeks?
- ❖ If your group is continuing from the spring with no new members, still take time to discuss what you are hoping to get out of the next 10 weeks together. What are you looking forward to as a group this fall?



UP: Connect with God through Spending Time in His Word

Read aloud the passage for the week: James 2:14-26. 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. Reread verse 14. When have you seen someone's words and actions not align?
2. When have your own words/actions not aligned?
3. Reread verses 15-16. This is a challenging thought experiment. To what extent do you think people's religious convictions should inform their actions in the workplace, their interactions with neighbors, etc.?
4. This is even more than a thought experiment. James identifies two of our most basic needs and determines that people being without these things is an issue. Whose responsibility is it to take care of these people who are without clothes and daily food?
5. What do you think the responsibilities of the government, the church, and individuals are in responding to this sort of poverty?
6. What steps would you need to take to participate in this work?
7. How does this passage challenge you to think differently about what it means to be human?



IN: Connect with Each Other

Take time to share prayer requests as a group. Assign one person to pray for all of these requests to close your group time.



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

City Serve is coming up October 5th. This event provides a fantastic opportunity to join in the humanizing work of Jesus in our city. Take time as a group [perhaps for the second time] to discuss whether some of you (or all of you!) will register for a service site together. More information can be found at <http://firstprescos.org/cityserve>.