

Connecting Group Study Guide

Knowing, Growing, Going

Week of May 15-21, 2016

Follow-up

1. Start by sharing with each other about your previous week.
2. Who did you encourage in the faith this past week?
3. Discuss your Connecting Groups plan to encourage the global church family. What else needs to be done with the plan? How and when will your Group implement the plan?

Knowing God

Read Luke 15:1-32.

In this short series we have been looking at the manner in which God, and his church, uses cultural artifacts in various ways that can point humanity back toward him and his Truth. Throughout Luke 15 we can see multiple cultural images and artifacts used by God to teach his Truth and reveal his nature to humanity.

1. What are the cultural artifacts the Jesus uses in these three connected parables? List them out together.
2. Try to place yourself in the shoes of a first century Jewish person. In what way do you think these parables may have connected with Jesus' audience?
3. What insights about God and his character is revealed through these three parables?

Growing in Christ-likeness

1. Building on the insights revealed about God in question #3 above, how and where do we see these same attributes and insights exhibited in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ?
2. Look at verses 7, 10 and 32. What is the importance of these three verses, especially since the same point is mentioned three times in the same chapter?
3. ?

Going to Our Neighbors and the World

1. Think about the cultural artifacts that you regularly see and encounter on a daily basis. How might you be able to use these items in such a way that you could point another to Jesus through them?
2. Has anyone ever used something from culture to present a biblical teaching to you? How did it help you understand what was being taught?

Action Step: This week, based off of your list of cultural artifacts, pick one and write down a way that you can use that artifact to point another to Jesus. Be prepared to share it with your Group the next time you gather together. Your "presentation" should be short, no longer than 3-5 minutes. Also, it should clearly point out an important attribute of God or the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Close in prayer together—ask God to open your eyes to begin to see his truth deposited within the surrounding culture.