

Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

COMMUNITY GROUPS ARE BETTER WHEN MEMBERS COME PREPARED. THIS GUIDE HAS BEEN PROVIDED AS A TOOL FOR THAT.

Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

Message Summary

In Luke 6:1-11, Jesus continues to confront the religious leaders of his day, and this time he uses the Sabbath as the issue in order to show that we'll either be filled with criticism of others or compassion for others.

1. **What fills us with criticism? Legalism.** A legalist was (in Jesus' day) and is (today) someone who would put the letter of the law over the spirit of the law. In essence, a legalist has made the law his lord, and his interpretation of the law is the only correct one. This makes a legalist like a cop, and his or her job is to always find fault in others in relation to the law.
2. **What fills us with compassion? Lordship of Jesus.** Just like Jesus had the authority to forgive sin (we saw that last week), we find here that he has authority over the interpretation of the law. When he told the Pharisees that he was "Lord over the Sabbath" he was telling them that what he was here to do was the very heart of the law – bring unholy people to a holy God. His ministry was marked by compassion for all people at all times (even the legalists!), and as his followers, ours should be, too.

Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- What takeaway – if any – did you have from the message this week?
- Did your family have any rules that you thought were dumb? Has your view of those rules changed over time?
- The best description of the Pharisees is actually going to come later in Luke, but you can peek at it now in Luke 18:9. Have you ever known people who "looked down on everyone else?" How does it feel to be around overly critical people?
- Why do you think Jesus provoked the Pharisees by healing on the Sabbath? Why not wait a day? Ultimately, how does Jesus clarify the Sabbath issue (vv. 5, 9)? According to Jesus, would there ever be a wrong time to show compassion?
- When have you felt tension between obeying religious principles and helping people? What causes and relieves that tension?
- As you are following Jesus, are you becoming more free to love others, or becoming more constrained by religious rules? Why?