

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

This week, Paul shared a vision that God showed him a few months ago, and shared the hope of how nothing in our crazy lives – at work, at home, at church, in transition, in stability, or in any other season of life – can alter the promises that God has given to us in His word. In fact, the more we realize that our prayers are heard and our answer is on its way, the more confidently we'll find ourselves living out the one word command of Ephesians 6:13 – “and after you have done everything, STAND.”

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?
- Describe a time when you were ignored. What emotions did you experience? What did you do?
- Read 1 John 5:14. The Greek word for “confidence” in the NIV means “freedom in speaking, unreserved in speech, open, frank, without concealing, free and fearless, cheerfully courageous, bold.” Which – if any – of those words would you say describe(s) how you talk with God? Which of those words describe(s) how you desire to talk with God?
- How does knowing that God hears your prayer and instantly sends an answer change the way you view prayer? How does it change how you spend the waiting period (the 3 Dots)?
- This was in one of my devotionals: “While we are waiting, God is working. Are we ready to wait for the fulfillment of God's promises?” How does this make the waiting easier? How can the message of the 3 Dots change the waiting from frustration into anticipation?
- We know from Daniel 10 that Daniel was active in prayer as he waited for the answer. What does Ephesians 6:13 say is our job while we wait for God's answer and deliverance?
- Psalm 130 is the prayer of a man in the middle of the 3 Dots. He is desperate, and begins the prayer hoping to be heard. But something shifts in verse 5 when he puts his hope in the word (the promises) of God. Compare the “I hope I'm heard” in the first 2 verses with the “I know He will answer” in the last 2. This is the power of what Daniel learned. From the moment we pray, we are heard and answers are sent. Close the night praying with confidence and thanking God for His unchanging promises!