

# The Gathering Community Group Guide

## True Story // Part 8 // Going forward by looking back

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Luke 3:21-38

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

We forget things all the time, but can you imagine what it would be like to experience amnesia and wake up and not know who you are and how you got where you are! Of all the things we forget, **WHERE WE CAME FROM** is one that we can't afford to forget. When Luke was writing the report of his investigation into the claims of Jesus, he made sure to include Jesus' genealogy. Now, we usually skip that list of names, but maybe God knew something we need to learn: that where we came from has more to do with where we're going than where we are right now. Before Jesus fulfilled HIS mission, God reminded him whose son he was. It would be good for us to remember where we came from, too. When we do, we'll remember:

1. **We were made BY GOD in order to live FOR GOD:** The worst insult we could ever give God is a small life. That doesn't mean that we aren't living day-to-day and honoring God in the routine, but it does mean that we recognize the truth of Ephesians 2:10 – we're made BY HIM to live FOR HIM. It isn't enough to be a trophy on the shelf. He had a plan when we began, and remembering where we came from helps us move in obedience to that plan.
2. **We were made for a PURPOSE IN TIME more than for a PERIOD OF TIME:** To put too much emphasis on the period of time in which we live leads to erroneous thinking like, "Make the best of the 70 years you've got" and "Get all you can while you can" and "YOLO." But when we understand that we were made ON PURPOSE, FOR PURPOSE we'll want the preacher to say about us what Paul said about David in Acts 13:36 - he served the purpose of God. We're here – for however long we're here – to glorify God.
3. **Where we are CURRENTLY isn't as important as where we were ORIGINALLY:** I love the back and forth between God and Jeremiah in Jeremiah 1:4-6. God called Jeremiah to do something, and Jeremiah gave God the reason why he wasn't currently in a position to do it. God knew that was coming, and told him before that: I made you with a call. When God creates us with a call, we're never too small.
4. **The MEANING OF LIFE is determined by the ORIGIN OF LIFE:** We've taught for years that life is an accident, some random occurrence from atoms random colliding. And now, we wonder why society is in such a mess of violence, rage, and disrespect. It's because life has no significant meaning if it had no significant origin. The psalmist wrote in Psalm 139:13-18 about our significant beginning, and that is what leads to the sanctity of life.

#### 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?
- Do you have any interesting "ancestry" stories? Famous relatives? Family stories that have been passed down through the years?
- Read Ephesians 2:10. What clues do you see in how you're made that help explain what you do? (personality, temperament, passions, etc.)

- What are some of the circumstances that we each face that can cause us to feel like we are missing the purpose of our lives? Isaiah felt like that once, too. His life started to feel small and futile, even though he had been born with a purpose. Read Isaiah 49:1-4 to see the struggle. What was he made for ORIGINALLY (see vv. 2-3)? What was he experiencing CURRENTLY (see v. 4)? What did he remind himself of in v. 5 in order to get back to life with purpose (his origin – being formed in the womb)?
- Maybe you are in a season like Isaiah and you're struggling to remember the purpose you were created for. You're not alone! The struggle is real. Close your time together by reading Psalm 139:13-18 and highlighting the words that ignite that passion of purpose for you again.