

The Gathering Community Group Guide

The Helper // Part 5 // Getting us out of the way

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Various

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. TAKE TIME BEFORE GROUP TO GO OVER THIS GUIDE.

Consider...

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

Message Summary

This week, we began to talk about the things that the Helper wants US to do, and we learned that there are 2 things he wants us to do, and 2 things he doesn't want us to do, and that our obedience in these areas ensures that we have new wineskins to hold the new wine that God is giving us in the Helper. He wants us to...

1. **Do great works:** Jesus knew that having the Holy Spirit inside us was better than having him beside us, and that because the church isn't limited to one area at one time in history, we can do a greater amount of kingdom work than Jesus could. The status quo is out, and a movement mentality is in!
2. **Speak God's words:** In Acts 4:31, we find that the people who were filled with the Spirit immediately began to speak God's words with boldness, and we will, too.

The Helper doesn't want us to...

3. **Convict the world:** Christians are the worst about shoving truth down the world's throats, but it's the Helper's job to convict the world about its sin. It's our job to love them to Jesus as humble receivers of the same grace the world needs.
4. **Confuse the world.** When it comes to the Holy Spirit, we think that the weird stuff like tongues will confuse the world, but the truth is that it is our tolerance of sin in the church that confuses sinners. People run from Jesus because they perceive the church as a bunch of hypocrites, and so it's important that when we use the gifts of the Spirit, we look like the One who gave them.

Discuss

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

- What, if any, is your takeaway from this week's message?
- When you think about the phrase "do great works," do any come to mind that you have been a part of for God or seen God do? Describe it.
- Can you describe a time when you spoke words to someone and you (and they) knew without a doubt that they were the right words at just the right time? How did that feel for you? For the other person? Read Proverbs 16:24 to see why those words were so effective.
- Read Genesis 3:1-5 and discuss how pride played a critical role in the fall of man. Read Proverbs 16:18 and discuss how pride blinds us from the dangers around us.
- Matthew 12:36 is a haunting verse that talks about our accountability for every careless word we speak! If you had to guess, how many careless words have you spoken today? Tonight? In the last 2 hours? Do you agree that we need the Helper to redeem our tongues? Pray Psalm 141:3 over your life for this week.
- End the time together praying for one another in the areas of pride and speech.