



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.

**USE THIS GUIDE TO PREPARE FOR THE DISCUSSIONS IN COMMUNITY GROUP.**

## **Consider...**

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

### **Message Summary**

*Over the first 2 weeks of the series, we've talked a lot about how God wants us to GIVE our resources, but this week we'll make a shift as we begin to talk about how God wants us to LIVE with our resources. The first step? Learning how to stop being possessed by our possessions! As we found out in Philippians 4:10-13, God isn't against us having stuff, but He is against stuff having us! Being free to give means we've got to be free from the things we give, and when we are, we'll understand the secret that Paul wrote about in Philippians 4:12.*

### **Discuss**

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

- What are some of the reasons why people store things? Have you ever kept something so long that you forgot why you kept it?
- Do you think you suffer from "stuffitis" (the accumulation of stuff)? Do you think our culture does?
- Read Philippians 4:11 and discuss the following statement in light of it: "Contentment within us is stronger than the circumstances around us." Why do you think contentment starts within us?
- How does Philippians 4:12 speak truth into the competing extremes of a poverty gospel and a prosperity gospel? Is it bad to have stuff? Is it better to have nothing? What balance does "in any and every situation" bring to contentment?
- Read Mark 10:17-22. Do you think the young ruler had possessions or do you think his possessions had him? Give reasons for your answer from the text.
- Look at Philippians 4:19. What is the source of Paul's contentment? How can knowing that God supplies our needs from HIS resources settle our souls in the fight to stop being possessed by our possessions?