

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

Like we've said from the beginning of this series in Luke 18, whenever we go ALL IN there will be messes and obstacles that will tempt us to go back out, and in verse 15-17 we find the disciples wrestling with just such a mess! The New Living Translation says that parents were bringing their children to Jesus in order to be touched and blessed by Him, but the disciples scolded the parents for bothering Jesus with their children. Wow! The disciples thought that Jesus would be bothered by children and didn't think parents should bring their children to Him!

At The Gathering, we are ALL IN on family discipleship, mess and all, and we don't want to let anything stop us from doing everything we can to get families together in the presence of Jesus because we know that Jesus loves families and family is what is on the Father's heart.

The last thing we want to do is have a form of discipleship that separates families and makes families feel like they are bothering Jesus. In fact, it bothers us when that bothers disciples! Bring them all to Jesus because Jesus has something to say to everyone family member!

Discuss

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

- Jesus took every opportunity to teach people about the Kingdom. What do we learn about the Kingdom from how Jesus interacted with the children? The parents? The disciples?
- Read Psalm 127:3-5 and compare those words with how the disciples treated the families and the children in Luke 18:15. One says that children are a heritage and the other shows children being treated like hindrances. How do you see them? How does our church see them?
- Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9. Who is ultimately responsible for discipleship? How can the church help families live out the commands found in these verses?
- Read Matthew 12:49-50; Romans 12:10-13; Ephesians 2:19; 4:11-15. Why do you think God compares the church to a family? What might He be trying to reveal to us by doing this?
- What other takeaways, insights, or questions do you have from the message this week?