

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

Jesus did something in Luke 6:12-19 that is so simple, it's often overlooked: he called 12 men out in order to send them back in. He still calls us out for a purpose, and while the 12 Apostles had a specific purpose that will become more clear in future passages in Luke, what we know for sure is that today, Jesus calls us out in order to send us in. The word for "church" in the New Testament literally means "called out ones" and Jesus is clear in John 20:21 and the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) that he's got plans for us in the mission field. This week, Paul explored what happens when we focus too much on either of those balancing truths:

1. **If we focus on being called out...** When we only think about being called out, we run the risk of escapism and elitism. One says "I'm safe" and the other says "I'm separate" and both tend to keep us alienated from the world that Jesus wants us to take the gospel to.
2. **If we focus on being sent in...** On the flip side, if we only think about being sent in, we can find ourselves offended by others in the church who don't seem to be as passionate as we are about the commission we've been given to make disciples. The other extreme is that we can become so blended with the world that we don't even appear to be different from them.

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?
- Paul shared a quote from A. W. Tozer that says, "truth has two wings." Why do you think something so obvious is often so hard to live by? Compare that statement with this one: "it's easier to go to a consistent extreme than to stay at the center of biblical tension."
- This week we saw 2 extremes: being called out from the world and being sent in to the world. Can you think of any other "consistent extremes" in the Bible that can feel like they create tension?
- In Philippians 3:15, Paul hints at the fact that we sometimes have differing points of view. In our teaching this week, think of being called out and being sent in as two ends of a spectrum. All of us are working from one of those two ends toward the middle, and that means we won't all agree or have the same passion as each other. What 2 points does Paul at the end of verse 15 and in verse 16 about who will clear things up for us and what we should be doing while we're waiting?
- In the areas of telling your story and staying on mission, how are you living up to what you have already attained? If you have time, maybe you could share stories with your group about what you've been saved from.