

The Gathering Community Group Guide

The Helper // Part 10 // How to become a better trumpet player

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1 Corinthians 14 and 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.

THIS IS THE FINAL WEEK OF THE WINTER QUARTER. COMMUNITY GROUPS WILL RESUME ON APRIL 12TH.

Consider...

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

Message Summary

In 1 Corinthians 14, Paul wrapped up his instructions to the church in Corinth about the gifts that the Helper gives. One of the most important words of advice was about sounding a trumpet for battle but no one understanding it. Seems like an odd thought until we remember that the Helper does everything through us with one purpose: point people to Jesus. That's a job we can't afford to blow (pardon the trumpet pun). One of the worst things we could do going forward as a church would be to use the gifts of the Spirit in a way that gets in the way of others seeing Jesus. In fact, as we begin to put the finishing touches on the series, Paul explained what we shouldn't be, what we should be, and 2 qualities that can make all the difference.

1. **What we shouldn't be:** The one thing we can't afford to do when it comes to the gifts is be confusing. I think we all agree that seeking the gifts and using the gifts can be complicated, but that's not the same as being confusing. In fact, the most confusing part of the gifts is when someone who doesn't look anything like Jesus uses them.
2. **What we should be:** God wants us to be committed to being clear as we grow in the use of his gifts, because the message we are communicating is so important.
3. **What makes the difference:** 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 tells us that as we grow in the "mysteries of God" (and so much of the Helper can seem to be a mystery), it's important that we be servants and faithful. These 2 qualities are the difference between being a vessel and being weird, and they are qualities that are developed in relationship with God and others privately first. **To be clear in public, be near in private.**

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?
- What have been some of the most helpful truths for you throughout the series? Explain.
- Have you ever found yourself in a situation with a language barrier? Share the story with the group. How did you respond to it and what feelings did you experience in trying to overcome it?
- Think about the opposite; a time when something became clear to you: a real "light bulb" moment. How did that feel?
- Read Matthew 20:28 and 23:11. Why do you think servant hood is such an important characteristic in our lives as we grow in our understanding of the Helper? Read Acts 6:3 and talk about how being full of the Spirit privately qualified men to serve. What was the result of Spirit-driven servant hood (see Acts 6:7)?
- 3 times in Matthew 6 Jesus says that the Father will reward what he sees us doing in secret. How would our public services be impacted if we were all committed to taking our private relationships with God and one another to a new level? Will you commit to that specifically over the next 14 days?