



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

One thing that ALL of us can relate to is pain. But what really causes some to stand out above others is finding the purpose in the pain, and that only comes from seeing the person who can not only bring purpose from our pain, but be present with us in it. That person, of course, is God. He is a faithful Father to the hurting, a very present help in our time of need, and a strong tower that we can run to when the storms of life come. How do we know? Because on the cross, as Jesus faced the greatest pain imaginable, a simple prayer pointed to a faithful Father.

Discuss

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

- Do you have a low or high pain tolerance?
- Have you ever experienced finding purpose in pain? How could expecting everything to be "fair" keep us from finding purpose in pain?
- How hard is it for you to trust God in difficult times?
- Read Mark 15:34. Have you ever felt alone in suffering? Does it encourage you that Jesus did, too?
- In Luke 23:46 we read the last words Jesus spoke on the cross. Jewish tradition records that this prayer - originally found in Psalm 31:5 - was a common bedtime prayer used by Jewish children. What do you learn from the fact that his last prayer from the most painful place was one to his FATHER and one of TRUST?
- How did Jesus live out the words of Peter in 1 Peter 4:19?
- Jesus knew that his Father would be faithful even in his death on the cross because he spent time listening to the Father's words throughout his life and ministry. Close out your time reading these promises of a Father who is faithful in our suffering: Psalm 41:3; Romans 5:3-5; Psalm 56:8; Proverbs 18:10; Psalm 46:1; Isaiah 43:1-2; Revelation 21:4