

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

When we think of people who are really good at serving, most of us will think of moms. Arguably, no one on the planet does more when it comes to serving than moms do for their families, except, well – Jesus. That's the example Paul pointed to when he wrote to the believers in Philippi about what was missing in their faith, and from Philippians 2:1-11, Paul shared 4 game changers with us this week:

1. **Serving is an attitude before it's an action:** So much of the Christian faith is about syncing our minds with God's truth, and it's interesting that Paul encouraged the Philippians to change their attitudes before attempting to change their actions. Before Christ, we were selfish in our attitude. After Christ, we are selfless.
2. **Serving doesn't change who we are; it reveals who we are:** If our attitude changes, our actions will follow, and that's important because we aren't supposed to act like Jesus in the hope of becoming like Jesus. The gospel changes us first on the inside into servants, and then the opportunities to serve reveal the change (or, the lack of change!).
3. **Serving is an act of obedience to God, not an obligation to men:** If we see serving as an obligation, it will drain us. But when we see it as the natural outflow of obedience to God, serving actually sustains us. When we begin to feel drained in service, it's a good time to step back and check our motivation. Anything less than worship-filled obedience will lead us away from the joy that comes through serving.
4. **Serving empties us so that God can exalt Jesus through us:** When Jesus emptied Himself of His rights as God, God the Father was able to exalt Him to the highest place. It's the same with us: serving empties us of our pride and our rights and creates room in our lives for Jesus to be exalted. Less of us means more of Him!

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?
- Just for fun, what is your pet peeve chore in the home?
- What do you think it means to “consider others better than yourself” in Philippians 2:3?
- What do you think it was like for Jesus to leave heaven and become human and to take all of our sins upon Himself?
- Who do you admire because they truly put the interests of other ahead of their own interests?
- What is the closest you have come to being in a fellowship that cared for one another like Paul describes here in Philippians 2? A sports team? College sorority? Fellow soldiers?
- Wrap up the study by reading and commenting on the following passages about serving: Galatians 5:13-14; 1 Peter 4:10-11; Proverbs 11:25; Matthew 23:11; Proverbs 19:17; Mark 10:45