



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

While some people may enjoy stretching, most people don't. It's uncomfortable, it requires more time before and after a workout, and the results are often slow and hard to measure immediately. But as we learned this week, if we're going to be able to receive from God and be sent by God, we've got to increase our capacity for both. How does God do that? You guessed it! He stretches us.

Discuss

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

- Paul mentioned 4 areas where God stretches us: in obedience, in faith, in stewardship, and in love. How have you experienced God stretching you in these areas? What are some other areas in your life in which you feel stretched by God?
- Read Mark 3:1-6. How would you have felt if you were the man and had to stretch out your hand while it was still withered? How did the Pharisees respond to having their beliefs stretched?
- Think back to the video Paul showed of the raging waters in the Jordan River during the flood stage. What would be going through your mind as a priest if you were looking at the river and heard the command in Joshua 3:8?
- Read Psalm 81:6-10. How does being rescued by God encourage us to trust him? What role does trust play in being wide open to what God has for us?
- The greater the stretch, the farther the launch. How does knowing that God is stretching you in order to send you change the way you view being stretched?

We are currently in a season of prayer and fasting that we call "50 Days to Fire" as a church. Please join us for corporate prayer each Wednesday night in the Worship Center from 7:30 - 8:30.