

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

It actually is true that there are stupid – or bad – questions. In fact, what makes a question bad is when the asker has no intention of even considering the answer, and in this week's passage, we find 2 really bad questions that lead us to this week's shift.

- 1. 2 bad questions and 2 better answers:** *First, a group of spies asked Jesus if they should honor the government with their money. On the surface it may seem like a reasonable question, but Jesus knew that the only reason they were asking was to try and trap him when he answered. But his answer left them speechless when he told them that they should honor God with their money first. The second bad question was about how we would be married to after the resurrection. The only problem with that question was that it was asked by a group of Sadducees who didn't even believe in the resurrection! Jesus had a better answer for them, too, and it was himself. We'll be married to Jesus in heaven!*
- 2. The shift:** *What we notice in these 2 bad questions is that they were merely hypothetical. In other words, they were just something to talk about or think about but there was no intention of actually doing anything about the answer. That's why this week's shift is from hypothetical to actual. In other words, our hands and feet reveal our heart. Belief should lead to action, or, in the words of Nike, we should all "just do it."*

Discuss

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

- How do you typically respond to bad (dumb) questions? How does your response change when you know the person asking the question truly wants an answer?
- How would you have responded to the 2 bad questions if you had been asked them? What was so wise about the way Jesus answered them?
- Take the time to read through the following verses: John 13:17; Proverbs 29:18; Matthew 7:24; Luke 11:28; Romans 2:13; James 1:25. What brings blessings to our lives? What kind of blessings do these verses highlight?
- Read 1 Corinthians 4:20 and talk about the relation between power and action. Why do you think people would rather just talk instead of act?
- Read Philippians 4:9. Who are you learning from and how are you putting that into practice? Who could be learning from you?

HYPOTHETICAL

Talks
Costs nothing
Allows me to be right
Unproven
Virtual obedience

ACTUAL

Does
Costs something
Allows me to be used
Proven
Visible obedience

shift