

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

This week we resumed our "True Story" series in the gospel of Luke, and right away we find ourselves in a story about John the Baptist asking the question that prompted Theophilus to commission Luke to investigate the stories he'd heard about Jesus. John sent his disciples to simply ask Jesus, "Are You the one?" This week, Paul helped us understand the answer to the question and the way the answer impacts our lives for the gospel.

1. **With Jesus, it's one or none:** John was clear: if Jesus wasn't the Messiah, he'd keep looking. There was no sense in "dating" Jesus and playing around with the relationship! John wanted to know that Jesus was "the one" that they'd been looking for. The good news is that He is! The bad news is that many try to sit on the fence with Jesus by calling Him a good teacher when He is so much more than that! He is Lord!!
2. **When Jesus is Lord, difficulties won't derail us:** Recognizing that Jesus is the one isn't a "get out of jail free" card! There are still plenty of times that we will face difficulties in this life (many of which are a direct result of following Jesus as Lord!), but John knew something that we need to know: being confident of the Lordship of Jesus gives us confidence in those tough times! Our difficulties may still come, but they won't derail us any more!

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?
- If you're married, when did you know that the person you married was "the one?" If you're unmarried, what sign are you looking for to convince you that you've met "the one?"
- What situation recently has frustrated you because you weren't sure what to do?
- How does Jesus answer John's question (vv. 21-23)? What six things characterized Jesus' ministry? Compare those six characteristics with Isaiah 29:18-19; 35:5-6; and 61:1. How do you think John interpreted Jesus' answer?
- What blessing does Jesus give in verse 23? How do you think this may have encouraged John? How does it encourage you?
- When did you come to the place in your faith when you knew that Jesus was "the one" you were looking for? Describe the difference it has made.