



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:

#### **The Big Idea**

*The cross crosses out dividing lines.*

#### **Message Summary**

*We've already seen that the remix can be messy because God is bringing very different people together as one and not only is that not easy, but Scripture seems to indicate that it is impossible without first bowing our knee to a Savior on a cross. In Ephesians 2, 3, and 4, we see that the cross is where Jesus destroyed the wall between men, where the Church displays the wisdom of God, and where we are empowered to do the work of unity in our relationships.*

#### **Discuss**

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

- Read Ephesians 2:11-22. What was the problem this church was facing? Who were the "in" people and who were they "out" people? What was God's solution revealed in verse 13?
- If Paul (the apostle) wrote a letter to our church today, what stand would he take on issues that threaten to divide us?
- Read Ephesians 3:2-11. What was the mystery that Paul kept talking about? How would you compare Paul's passion to share the mystery with your own? Where does the unifying gospel explained in verse 6 challenge you the most? Issues of racism? Sexism? Care for the poor? Where is God calling you to be an ambassador for Him?
- Read Ephesians 4:1-13. Are you living up to the "calling you have received" (v. 1)? In your personal life? Your work or school life? Your relationships?