

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

As our church celebrates 5 amazing years of ministry and life transformation, we also face a mission critical reality: what has happened does not guarantee what will happen, because the mission of Jesus is always growing. In Luke 9, it involved 12. In Luke 10 – the passage we examined this week – it involved 72 more. By the time Pentecost happened in Acts, it was 120. You get the idea. The mission is bigger than one person, one group of people, on church or one generation. Paul shared 5 observations from Luke 10:1-24.

1. **Living on mission is a team sport with many seasons:** There is no denying the cyclical nature of the mission we've been given. If we're to be found faithful, we need to serve in the harvest when it's our season. Some served at year 1, more at year 5, and we'll need more at years 10, 15, and 50. We stand on shoulders, and others will soon stand on ours. It is critical that we are good team members!
2. **Jesus responded to the need instead of reacting to it:** Every pastor or team leader wants the same thing: more people! Jesus wanted that, too, but instead of panicking, pointing out people or posturing in pride over how we're serving, Jesus simply said we should pray and ask God to send more.
3. **Jesus prayed for workers, not players:** Who did Jesus ask God to send? Workers. Men, women, boys and girls who will take the harvest seriously and give it their best effort.
4. **We can't play it safe and still be sent:** Most of us want to play it safe, but what we find in Jesus' prayer and words is that HOW we're sent is often through force ("ekballo" means to drive out!) and that WHERE we're sent is to wolves. A big part of God KEEPING US SAFE is the decision to stop PLAYING IT SAFE.
5. **We can't afford to miss the mission while we're on it:** The bottom line is that the mission must never become about what WE can do, and it must always be about what HE has done. Jesus rescued us, and now Jesus is sending us on that same rescue mission. It's critical that we never forget that!

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?
- Paul talked about the mission being a team sport and that we need to play our part well and then pass the baton on to others. Why is that such a good analogy of the mission we've been given?
- There are 4 things we can do when we see the need for help but don't see any helpers: we can PRAY, we can PANIC, we can POINT (at others to force them to serve), or we can POSTURE ("look at how I'm serving!"). Which of these would you say is your default? Why do you think praying to God about the need for workers would be so effective? Why do we often treat it as a last resort?
- Discuss this statement: *A big part of God KEEPING US SAFE is the decision to stop PLAYING IT SAFE.* Read 2 Chronicles 16:9 to see what God does for us when we fully commit and go all in!
- Finish up your time in the group by completing the Serving Survey that were provided for everyone. This is a practical way to begin IMMEDIATELY living out the truths we've heard.