

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 with a break from Community Groups during the. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family as you prepare to attend your Community Group.

COMMUNITY GROUPS ARE BETTER WHEN YOU COME TO GROUP HAVING PREPARED WITH THIS GUIDE!!

Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

Message Summary

This week we continued our 4 part series "Blessed!" Last week, Paul opened the series by answering the question of whether or not God wants us to be happy, and this week he took on one of the biggest lies in the church by looking at some of the key events in the life of Abraham.

1. **Leave it all to get it all.** It's amazing what situations God calls blessed in the Bible, isn't it? Poverty, mourning, dissatisfaction, persecution. In Genesis 12, God calls leaving your comfortable home with no destination blessed as well. That's just what Abraham did – he left it all in order to get it all, and along the way he gained influence, affluence, and a son when he had been childless. He was blessed!
2. **The biggest lie that we can buy.** Often, what we learn about ourselves comes at the height of our success even more than the depths of our despair, and it was true for Abraham, too. God asked him to sacrifice his son – the son that he had been promised – and Abraham was willing to. He could have chosen God's promise TO him over God's promise THROUGH him, but he didn't. Satan's biggest lie to us is that God's blessings are just for us, but they aren't.
3. **Letting God play through.** God doesn't just want to bless you. He wants to bless through you, and when we allow his generosity to flow through us, it points people back to Him, because God is generous! When we live lives of "no" we cut off the flow from God to us and through us.

Discuss

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

- What was something fun that you did over the summer break?
- As you've thought back through this week's message, what one thing – if any – inspired you or maybe even confused you?
- When you think of generosity, who (past or present, local or famous) comes to mind? What about stingy people?
- Use three words to describe generous people. Do the same for stingy people.
- God loves to be generous! Read John 3:16 and James 1:5 to find out 2 displays of His generosity.
- Read Genesis 12:2. God's plan is to bless a man in order to bless all men. Satan's plan is to get a man to be satisfied with blessings. In Genesis 22, Abraham could have chosen God's promise TO him over God's promise THROUGH him, but he didn't. What about you? Are you choosing to let God "play through?"
- What, if anything, can we learn about generosity (or the lack of it) from the following verses: Luke 6:38 (it's especially good in The Message!!); 2 Corinthians 9:6-15; Proverbs 11:24-25; 1 Timothy 6:17-19; 1 John 3:17; Proverbs 19:17; Psalm 37:25-26