

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

If you grew up in church, you've heard the story about the Good Samaritan. But many times, that story is told with a lot of pressure for us to do something, and specifically, to do the right things for others. But Jesus originally told the story to someone who was already DOING a lot of the right things, and yet was missing the most important piece: we don't do right in hopes of becoming right; we're made right so we can do right. So when this expert in the Law asked Jesus what he could do to be saved, Jesus told him something critical that all of us need to know. He told him that...

1. **Jesus is the better answer:** Every world religion (besides Christianity) has something in common: all of them teach that our hope of salvation rests on our ability to DO more good than bad. In short, religion's answer to the scribe's question about how to inherit eternal life is simple: be better; do more good than bad. But Jesus showed that He is the better answer, and that trusting in what HE has done is what allows us to be MADE RIGHT so that we can DO RIGHT.
2. **Jesus is the better neighbor:** The story of the Good Samaritan was told in order to highlight to this expert in the Law that what he thought was good wasn't. In fact, Jesus revealed that this man was only treating people like him as his neighbor. But Jesus is the better neighbor, because Jesus showed us compassion even when the Bible says that we were His enemies (Romans 5:8). Jesus was the Samaritan who showed the broken Jew compassion. When the cross makes us right, we'll feel the compelling desire to do right for others, even if they aren't like us.

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?
- Luke 10:29 says that the man “wanted to justify himself.” What are some ways that people try to justify themselves?
- Justification is a theological term that describes how we are made right before God because of what Jesus did on the cross. Some have said that it makes us “just as if I'd never sinned.” But sometimes that falls short of really understanding the price Jesus paid on the cross in order to set us free from our sin. Read the following scriptures and then discuss what they teach us about justification. Acts 13:39; Romans 2:13; Romans 3:24, 26; Romans 4:2; Romans 5:1, 9; Galatians 3:11; Galatians 5:4
- The word for compassion literally means “to be moved in the bowels” (yes, it's a weird concept) and is very similar to being “ekballo-ed” by God. How does showing compassion differ from simply feeling compassion? What does 2 Corinthians 5:14 say moves us to act compassionately?
- What groups of people would our culture consider Samaritans, and how could we as believers show compassion toward them? Take the time to close the group by praying for God to move you with compassion toward them.