

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

*It's important to remember (and emphasize with your group) that we aren't doing this series because we believe that we have all the answers or that we're the only place seeking answers. The purpose of this series is to begin having conversations that allow us to bring the light of Christ into places and situations that the enemy has tried to convince the church are too dark and too scary. We want to provide resources and relationships to those who are hurting either directly or indirectly from these issues, and your Community Group is a perfect place for that. YOU DON'T HAVE TO HAVE THE ANSWERS!!*

### Discuss

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

- Our speaker did a great job helping us see that ALL OF US struggle with addictive tendencies. Take the time at the beginning of group to pray and ask the Lord to give everyone courage to examine their lives and bring things to the light that Satan has convinced them to keep in the dark.
- Discuss this statement: "What if Christians were as dependent on the Holy Spirit as the addict is on that drug?" What further light does John 15:4-7 shed on the importance of our relationship with the Lord? How "addicted" are you right now to the vine?
- "Addiction isolates us from others, tears the person apart, and protects itself at all costs." How have you experienced the truth of this statement in your own life?
- Read John 14:31. The foundation of Jesus' obedience was the relationship he had with the Father. In the words of our speaker, "Nothing lasts outside of relationship with the Father." How does a lack of relationship with the Father open the door for potential addiction?
- Listen again to this quote from the message: "Trying to fix our problems with drugs or alcohol is like trying to put out a fire with gasoline." How does addiction trick us into thinking that we're dealing with the problem? What happens to the problem during active addiction? How powerful is John 1:5 in helping others (or ourselves) overcome the power of shame?