

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

One of the hardest things to have as we're joining Jesus in His Lost+Found rescue mission is faith. It's also the one thing that we **MUST** have, because so much of the rescue process involves small steps that can seem insignificant and invisible, and if we don't entrust the small steps to a big God, we'll never stay true to the mission. Jesus knew that, and shared 2 simple parables that revealed 2 powerful promises.

1. **Promise #1: What seems INSIGNIFICANT will become INDISPENSABLE.** In one simple parable, Jesus sent a powerful message: nothing – and no one – is too small for the kingdom. No matter how small the step seems to be on the rescue mission, God can take it and bring big results from it! What do we learn in a seed becoming a tree? That the kingdom of God – and specifically the rescuing of souls – requires patience and results in total transformation. We will be changed by the gospel.
2. **Promise #2: What seems INVISIBLE will become INESCAPABLE.** Our culture is big on “overnight” success stories, but when we really dig into the story, what we usually find is that there were years of things going on just below the radar that no one ever saw, until they saw the result of what they couldn't see. When Jesus shared the parable of the yeast, He was saying this: I want every part of who you are, and I'm going to work in you long before I work through you. What do we learn from some becoming all? Simply that the kingdom of God – and how His truth works in the rescued and the rescuer – requires perseverance and results in total impartation. We will be consumed by the gospel.

Discuss

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

- What is your favorite story about someone who started small but made it big?
- What things take time to grow? What would we miss out on if we “fast-tracked” the process?
- If you had the power to talk to the seed in verse 19, what would you tell it? Are there people in your life who feel insignificant? When will you tell them what you would tell the seed?
- What can we learn from the fact that the seed became a tree and not just a much bigger seed? Is it possible to get bigger but not change?
- Read the following passages: 1 John 3:2; 1 Cor. 13:12; Romans 8:29; and 2 Cor. 13:9. Does God desire growth or transformation? Is there a difference?
- We learn from the parable of the yeast that God's desire is to have us completely. He wants every single part! What words in Ephesians 4:13 demonstrate that truth?
- Name some “behind the scenes” jobs that are critical to success (ex., stage manager on Broadway)? According to Hebrews 4:12, how does God work “behind the scenes” to mature us?
- How can a little faith influence your everyday life? How do patience and perseverance help us with the insignificant and invisible parts of seeking those who are lost?