

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

To wrap up Luke 10 we have Jesus visiting Martha at her house. Martha is an emotional wreck, worried about all of the things she needs to accomplish in order to do a good job taking care of and feeding Jesus and His followers. She was doing plenty of GOOD things, but they were distracting her from being NEAR the One she was doing them for. This left Martha weary, burdened, resentful of her sister, angry at God and telling Him what to do, focused not on the One she's working for, but the ones she thinks are just lazy and should be helping her.

This week Phil talked about how it's clearly important to WORK FOR Jesus, but in doing so we can't neglect to be NEAR Him. So what does it look like when we are NEAR Jesus in the midst of working FOR Him?

1. Our WORK will be WORSHIP, not OVERWHELMING DUTY
2. We will have PEACE, not ANXIETY
3. We will be REFRESHED, not RESENTFUL
4. We will follow GOD'S lead, not our OWN
5. We will offer our GIFT without MEASURING what others offer

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?
- Which of the 5 points do you find yourself struggling with the most?
- Read Romans 12:1 and 1 Corinthians 10:31. These scriptures call us to worship and glorify God with everything we do. How can everything you do in a given day be an act of worship and point people to Jesus? What does that mean?
- Specifically thinking of church ministry, have you ever been distracted FROM Jesus because of how much you were trying to accomplish FOR Jesus?
- On Sunday, you heard “Who you ARE is more important than what you DO.” Jesus is very clear we should be working hard to point people to Jesus in everything we do, but in doing so, the position of our heart makes all the difference! Our hearts are rightly positioned when we are NEAR to Jesus. How do you stay near to Jesus? How can this group help you draw even nearer?
- One of the practical ways mentioned to draw near to Jesus through the context of The Gathering was “Discover the Gathering.” If you've gone through any of the 3 portions of Discover the Gathering, share the impact this has had on your relationship with Jesus and your ability to worship Him through your work.
- In the story, Martha essentially looked at Jesus and said, “It's not fair!” Romans 6:23 reminds us that if we got what was fair, we'd be separated from God forever because of our sins. Close tonight with prayers of thanksgiving that Jesus came NEAR to us and paved the way to eternal life!