

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.

Consider...

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

Message Summary

This week's Big Idea – walking in the light will keep relationships right – sums up perfectly the promise of 1 John 1:7. “If we walk in the light, we have fellowship with one another.” So the question we have to ask is why we don't? How is it possible for so many of us to seem to be in the light (church on Sundays, Community Group during the week, etc.) and yet not have true biblical fellowship? Paul taught that it's all about changing one simple preposition:

1. **The wrong preposition: walking WITH the light.** Many people walk with the light instead of in it, and the result is that they get to control when, where, and on whom the light shines (and here's a clue – they rarely shine it on themselves!!). They see the sin of everyone else and no one ever sees their sin, and as a result there is no fellowship. After all, no one is intimate with a cop!
2. **The right preposition: walking IN the light.** But John knew something amazing would happen if only we would walk in the light and not with the light. We would give up control, and we would find ourselves much more concerned about being right before God than about being right before men. The result of walking in the light is true fellowship with one another, and usually it's the kind that cannot be broken!

Discuss

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

- Paul mentioned some odd things that have happened to him in the dark. Have you had any moments like those?
- Read John 1:5. Some translations will have the word “understood” with a footnote that reads “overcome.” Can you think of the only way for darkness to overcome light? Read Matthew 5:15 if you need a hint.
- Looking back over your notes from the past week, was there anything that confused you or really caught your attention?
- Take the time to read the following verses and discuss what we can expect to take place when we are walking in the light with one another:
 - Zechariah 7:9
 - John 13:34-35
 - Romans 12:10
 - Romans 12:16
 - Romans 14:13
 - 1 Corinthians 1:10
 - Galatians 5:13
 - Ephesians 4:2
 - James 4:11
 - 1 John 4:11-12