



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.

**USE THIS GUIDE TO PREPARE FOR THE DISCUSSIONS IN COMMUNITY GROUP.**

### Consider...

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

#### Message Summary

What a delight it was to have our very own Jay Phillips share with us on Pastor Appreciation Sunday! Jay reminded us in such a grace-filled way that we'll never honor our pastors if we aren't first honoring THE PASTOR - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. As we say often, Jesus is the Senior Pastor of The Gathering and everyone else - no matter what title or role we may have - is submitted under his leadership. So how do we honor our pastors, not just on Pastor Appreciation Sunday, but everyday? It starts with honoring the One who placed them in our body.

#### Discuss

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

- First things first: let's establish beyond question who THE Pastor of The Gathering is by reading the following Scriptures - Ephesians 1:22; Ephesians 5:23; Colossians 1:15-18.
- What happens to a physical body when the head is cut off (not trying to be gross, just setting up the next question!)? What would a church look like if Jesus is no longer honored and recognized as the head?
- Read Ephesians 4:11-16. Verse 11 clearly lists roles that we associate with leadership in the church, but the main focus isn't on the leaders, it's on what the leaders are charged with doing. What does verse 12 say that is?
- Verses 13-16 are PACKED with markers that we find on the way to "attaining the whole measure of the fullness of God." Name some of them. These are the characteristics that God works into the body through the leaders he gives to the body.
- Jay mentioned that one of the ways we can honor our pastors is through being teachable. How will a teachable spirit help us navigate the choppy waters found in Ephesians 4:14-15? How can being teachable help us live out Hebrews 13:17?
- Read Galatians 6:6. So often we read a verse like this and picture sharing material things (it's true, gift cards are good things!), but how encouraging is it for you when you're told by someone that you're doing a good job? It's hard to think of a more encouraging way to honor our pastors than by simply sharing testimonies with them about how what they've taught us has had an effect on us. Take time over the next few days to send an email or text doing just that! It will be well received!