

The Gathering Growth Guide

We are Family // Part 5 // Family means we're corrected

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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 with a break from Community Groups during the. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family as you prepare to attend your Community Group.

USE THIS GUIDE TO PREPARE FOR THE COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION!!

Consider...

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

Message Summary

After realizing that we're accepted, connected and expected, this week we took a look at what happens in the family of God when things take a turn for the worse and the expectations aren't met. Not surprisingly, what happens in God's family isn't much different than what should happen in our own: we experience correction. The biggest difference, though, is in how and why we're corrected. God uses correction very differently than we do, and the Big Idea said it best: **Man uses correction to shame us. God uses correction to frame us.**

1. **Correcting our incorrect view of correction:** Most of us experience the negative style of correction, which Paul jokingly referred to as "getting the finger!" Of course, it isn't the middle finger, but the often shame-filled pointer finger showing us exactly where we went wrong. But, as we learned, God's correction comes from a Father motivated by love, and Who wants to see us be the best we can be. His correction isn't to be feared; it's to be valued.
2. **We're corrected by the Word of God:** We've all encountered people who felt like their spiritual gift was pointing out all of the things we were doing wrong, but Paul showed us over and over again from the Bible that the only tool that God wants to use to correct us is His Word. He speaks to us in our daily reading, through teaching, and even through others who live the truth in Scripture. Our job, when we're using it to correct others, is to handle it well: like a surgeon's scalpel and not a hatchet.
3. **We're corrected for the work of God:** No one wants to go through discipline or correction for no reason, and God is not a Father handing out busy work to His kids! Instead, He is molding us and shaping us to be a masterpiece for Him that can display His greatness! He uses His Word to prepare us for His work! Remembering that makes it a lot easier to let correction provide us with a better perspective, and it helps us see that correction isn't meant to frustrate us, but to frame us as His finished work of art!

Discuss

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

- As you've thought back through this week's message, what one thing – if any – inspired you or maybe even confused you?
- Give 3 words to describe how it feels to correct others? What about being corrected by others?
- Be totally honest: how does it feel to correct someone else and "be right?" How does that feeling change when you bring God into the equation, especially realizing the truth of what Jesus said in Luke 18:19?
- During the message, Paul said that if we don't bring God into the correction process, we're basically just correcting varying degrees of wrongness (my sin isn't as bad as your sin!). Take some time to talk through that concept. Do you agree or disagree? Give some reasons for your answer.
- What can we learn about correction from the following Scriptures: Proverbs 3:11-12; Proverbs 10:8; Proverbs 17:10; James 5:19-20; Hebrews 12:11?
- Shame is such a powerful, negative emotion, and God wants it to have no part in our lives. According to 2 Timothy 2:15, how does God remove shame from us? Read Proverbs 4:22 to learn what is in God's Word that allows it to correct us without shaming us. How does the Bible give life to us?