

# The Gathering Growth Guide

## We are Family // Part 7 // Family follow-up, part 1

Paul Jenkins

November 16, 2014

various

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 spending 6 weeks looking at family (and answering the "so what" question of what it means to be in the family of God), we'll be taking the next 2 weeks to answer the "now what" question of how we go about taking our place in the family. Obviously, salvation secures our place in the larger family of God. But membership (something we like to call "being planted" here at The Gathering) is what secures our place in the local family of God. This week we saw that:

1. **God wants us to be planted:** Sometimes our faith feels like a roller coaster of ups and downs, and the last thing we feel is secure. Maybe someone hurts us, or we get blindsided at work. For whatever reason, it's easy to think that a normal life of faith in Christ looks like that. But as we looked at 4 powerful passages of Scripture, we saw without a doubt that God wants all of us to be planted securely. And the reason He wants us planted is so obvious, it's hard to believe we could miss it. He wants us to be planted because He wants us to grow!
2. **God wants us to grow:** The list of benefits that we experience when we're planted is mind-blowingly good! We'll be blessed, fruitful, strong, prosperous, courageous, peaceful, established, thankful, loved and loving. Who doesn't want a life marked by those qualities? We all do, and the way to have them is by planting ourselves and letting our roots grow down deep. As the Big Idea put it, **growing up starts by digging down.**

### Discuss

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

- What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye opening, or troubling (if any)? Explain.
- The psalmist described the blessed man like a tree planted by the water always bearing fruit (Psalm 1). Give 3 or 4 adjectives that come to your mind when you picture that tree.
- Which is easier for you: going with the flow or taking a stand? Why did you pick one over the other?
- Read James 1:6-8 and contrast the man described in verses 7-8 with the tree in Psalm 1. Why don't we consider wishy-washiness a quality to be sought after?
- Describe a time when you did take a stand (put your roots down). Which of the benefits above did you see in your life as a result of that decision?
- We live in a culture that often shies away from commitment. How does the truth about being planted play out in that environment? What obstacles stand in our way as we consider a commitment to being planted?