

The Gathering Growth Guide

Big Things Come in Small Packages Week 1 // End BIG

Paul Jenkins

December 1, 2013

Matthew 13:31-33

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 WILL BREAK FOR THE HOLIDAYS AFTER THIS WEEK

Consider...

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

Message Summary

This week we started our December series called *BIG THINGS COME IN SMALL PACKAGES*. Over the next month, we'll be challenged to take a fresh look at what can seem like small and insignificant situations and begin to see how God can do – and is doing – *BIG THINGS* in us. In Week 1, Paul showed us that the kingdom of Jesus is not only big now, but it will end big as well. Knowing that gives us a foundation for how to live even when we feel like what we're doing is small. Paul made these 2 points:

1. **Seeing the BIG is exciting:** There is never anything wrong with being excited by big things: big games, big surprises, big moments. In fact, all of us are kind of wired for big things, and as we saw in Revelation 5, the end of time will be big. Apparently, God likes big things, too. But if all we do is see the big things, we'll find ourselves only spectating in those moments. In fact, the religious leaders of Jesus' time missed God's Son because he came to us in a small way.
2. **Seeing the BIG in the small is uniting:** But when we see the potential for big things in the small things, something pretty incredible happens: we start realizing that we can't do it. We start to ask others to help us, and we seek the power and strength that only God can give us. Seeing God do big things through us when we are so weak should excite us and terrify us at the same time, and ultimately seeing the big things he does will drive us to our knees in worship.

Discuss

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

- What presents attracted your attention as a child, the big ones or the small ones? What about now as an adult?
- Would you rather give a gift in a big box or a small one? Do you enjoy "faking" people out with the way a present looks?
- Looking back over your notes from the past week, was there anything that confused you or really caught your attention?
- Read Zechariah 4:10. Why do you think God sent the Savior of the world to such a small, obscure place?
- What are the pros and cons of being small? How does starting small help prepare us for bigger things?
- Revelation 5:6-14 describes a celebration unlike anything we'll experience here on earth. How does knowing the end help us here?
- How did it feel hearing all the things that God is doing through our church? How do *BIG THINGS* from small packages ensure the most glory for God?