

Community Groups are the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering. It is through the interaction that takes place in each of these groups that will enable people to begin moving from being drawn to God to a life that is being deepened by God. Use it as a resource to lead your group in discovering, owning, and applying the truths of God's Word. There may be aspects you do not want to use and there may be instances where you just want to focus on a particular point or truth. Some questions may bring out emotions and cause people to dwell on an aspect of their relationship with God. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid group task list.

Consider...

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

Message Summary

In Acts 14 we get the chance to view the snapshots of three important lessons that Barnabas and Paul learned when they were sent out of the church to preach the gospel, and each one of them challenge us to examine our own lives to see where we stand in light of this week's Big Idea: **the gospel is enough**. In 3 different stops, the two missionaries realized each of the following:

1. **The gospel isn't always exclusive enough:** The first thing we realize is that the good news of the gospel is available to everyone, and sometimes people respond to it that we either don't like or just make us uncomfortable. This is when the religion in us gets a little antsy, because (if we're honest) we like to have a little more control over who gets in.
2. **The gospel isn't always inclusive enough:** At their next stop, Paul and Barnabas found themselves under attack because – while the gospel is open to anyone – it isn't open to any belief system. There were people who loved the power of the gospel but really just wanted to add it to the gods they already had. Again, if we're honest, the rebel in us hates the squeeze that the message of the gospel can put us in.
3. **The gospel is always sufficient enough:** It can be tempting to change the message of the gospel when we start to realize that the good news isn't always good news to everyone, but Paul and Barnabas made the decision to not only preach the gospel anyway, but to be satisfied in the gospel. When the gospel is enough, then what may or may not happen to us because of it is no longer the driving force behind preaching it. We don't have to add to it or take from it in order to see others changed by it. In fact, the edge of the gospel that causes us to feel weak is actually a necessity for God's strength to be revealed in us (2 Corinthians 12:9-10).

Discuss

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

- What was one helpful, eye-opening, or troubling insight or principle from this week's message?
- Paul talked about the gospel not always keeping out people who we would. Have you ever been uncomfortable because the gospel wasn't exclusive enough? Discuss your experience.
- Are there certain types of people that would be harder for you to open the doors of the gospel to? For the Jews, it was the Gentiles. Who might it be in today's culture?
- How do you respond when the standards - the boundaries - of the gospel start to squeeze you? Discuss how you deal with weakness. How easy or difficult is it for you to "boast in your weakness?" What does that look like? (read 2 Corinthians 12:9-10)
- Take a quick inventory of your life. On a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 10 (strongly agree), how do you respond to this week's Big Idea that **the gospel is enough**?
- Discuss this statement: The lie of our enemy is that we somehow have to do something better than what Jesus has done for us.