

Community Groups are the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering. It is through the interaction that takes place in each of these groups around our area that will enable people to begin to move 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 questions to **BRIEFLY** review this week's message for those in the group:

Message Summary

In what is a very counter-cultural message, Pastor Paul took us on a journey through the first 10 verse of Acts 3 and pointed out some interesting points:

1. **After the chapter 2 revival, Peter and John still went to the temple.** In other words, they didn't consider the spiritual routines something to be set free from, but something to continue to be committed to.
2. **Jesus recreates what the world can only tolerate.** People carried the crippled beggar along for at least 40 years, and that's exactly what the world does with the hurting. But God doesn't carry us along; He makes us new!
3. **Hurting people need helping people.** The beggar needed something from Peter and John, and they didn't ignore his inquiry. So often we say that we want to help the hurting, but when it comes right down to it, we feel bothered or put off by their seemingly never-ending needs.
4. **We give what we have, and what we have is determined by what has us.** Peter and John didn't have money to give, but they had the power of God to give because the power of God had them. They were all in with Jesus!! Are we?

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? Explain.
- Have you ever felt "put-off" by someone else's drama/need? How did you respond? What could have happened if you had responded like Peter and John?
- Read Ezekiel 36:26. How do you respond to the truth that God doesn't want to make the old you better, but instead wants to re-create you with a new heart and a new spirit? What does that look like on a daily basis in your world?
- Pastor Paul asked a hauntingly simple question: are you possessed by your possessions? The goal is not to live in poverty, but to live in priority. That means that we each understand that our possessions are from God and for God, and when we hold them with an open hand He is able to use them to bless those around us. What are the challenges and/or benefits to living this way?

Commit...

Think and pray through your answers to the following questions in order to commit your life to living out what you've learned this week:

- What are some of the main truths/passages that God wants you to know from this message?
- Based on that truth/passage, what is an action that you can start to implement today or tomorrow?