

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

It’s impossible to read the second half of Acts 3 and not see the importance given to the name of Jesus. It’s equally impossible to not notice how much we throw that phrase around at the end of prayers without really thinking about what happens when we do. Here are 2 things we can learn about the name of Jesus:

1. **Saying the name reveals identity.** Listen, that sounds really deep, but we all do it every time we name our children, our pets, and our cars. Without names, we don’t really know who’s who, right? And so saying “in Jesus’ name” identifies us with Jesus. And while that’s good, it’s only the first part of the process. In short, saying the name is what unlocks the door. What happens next is what actually releases something into people and situations...
2. **Conveying the name releases authority.** I love this truth. It is the part of the equation that most of us miss, and that’s why so often people are saying Jesus’ name and yet not seeing anything change. Conveying simply means to move something from one place to another, and when we say Jesus’ name and unlock situations, God is able to flow all the power and authority that is in Jesus through us and to people. We are the conveyor belts, and it is vital that we are in proper working condition in order to complete the awesome process that accompanies Jesus’ name.

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.
- Read the following Scriptures and list what you learn about the name of God in each: Exodus 20:7; Exodus 34:14; Deuteronomy 12:11; 1 Samuel 12:22; Psalm 34:3; Isaiah 57:15.
- Discuss what it means to take the Lord’s name in vain (Exodus 20:7). How could simply “tagging” the end of a prayer with his name be a form of it?
- Exodus 3:15-16 says that there is one name by which God will be known forever, from generation to generation, and that name is “the Lord, the God of your fathers.” How can we ensure that our generation has power from God that we can convey to the generation coming behind us?
- There is power in the name of Jesus, and simply saying it can actually unlock impossible people and situations. Being a clean vessel allows God to then pour his power through us (or convey it) into those people. Take a minute and ask God to prepare you to be poured through.

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?