

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

How often do we find our souls and emotions going up and down depending on our circumstance? Guest speaker, Eugene Taylor, shared a powerful message about how God has put each of us in the places we are, and that where we are is of great significance, especially when we understand and utilize these 7 tools:

1. **Grace.** It is God's favor and influence.
2. **Seek the truth.** The Bible tells us who we are, who we belong to and what we do.
3. **Change.** Courage is the power to let go of the familiar.
4. **Learn and grow.** Go use what you've been taught and given.
5. **Power.** We model an attractive supernatural power that meets the needs of others.
6. **Proclamation.** We should eagerly communicate God's message to others.
7. **Praise.** No matter what we're facing, we need to maintain an attitude of gratitude and praise God.

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?
- Read John 14:12 and discuss how we can have peace and contentment in our current place while at the same time have a hunger for the "greater works" that Jesus promised.
- Isaiah 54:2 is a powerful promise of future growth and blessing, but did you know that it was promised to a BARREN woman (read verse 1)? Is it harder or easier to believe God for more when it feels like we have nothing? Discuss your answers.
- Eugene said, "Courage is the power to let go of the familiar." What familiar things do you need the courage to let go of in your life right now?
- Part of how God changes our perspective on the places in which we find ourselves is by showing us the people in those places that need His grace. Who are some people in the place you're in that you can take a risk and share God's grace with?
- Take some time to close out the group by praying one of two things: either by praising God for His trustworthiness and power to bring His light into the places where you currently are, or by asking Him to "enlarge your tents" by helping you to develop more and more of a faith in Him that circumstances can't shake.

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?