

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 ways for you to grow personally as well as in community through Personal Growth Guides and Summer School @ The Gathering. Personal Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and will be available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online. You may sign up for Summer School any Sunday between now and June 9.

COMMUNITY GROUPS WILL BEGIN AGAIN THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15TH

Consider...

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

Message Summary

For many of us, we can relate to how easy it is to start something AND how hard it is to finish the same things we start! As Paul was preaching in Corinth, he was warned by God in a vision about not leaving the preaching of the Gospel unfinished. Paul's response was to continue on in Corinth for another year and a half, because unfinished business fires up the fire! Acts 18:9-10 provides 3 reasons we shouldn't quit:

1. **Know God's presence:** The first thing God told Paul was to not be afraid because God was with him. Sometimes we leave things unfinished because we're afraid, but the presence of God offers us all kinds of reasons to have courage.
2. **Trust God's protection:** What risks would you and I take if we knew that it was impossible to fail? More than likely, we'd live much more courageously, and God told Paul to keep speaking because no harm would come to him. A lot of us leave things unfinished because we're defeated, but God's protection from all harm counteracts that and helps us live boldly.
3. **Remember God's purpose:** There's one thing worse than not speaking, and that's being silent (or giving up). God warned Paul against giving up and told him that there were still people in the city for him to reach. Remembering who we are and the purpose God has for us is usually all it takes to keep us from giving up, even when things get difficult.

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?
- Are you more of a starter or a finisher?
- Read Galatians 6:9. At first glance it seems to be talking about being tired, but the Greek word speaks more to being discouraged. Why do you think that's an important distinction? What makes a "good tired" different from a "bad tired?"
- 1 Corinthians 15:58 commands us to "let nothing move you" and 2 Peter 1:5-11 lists numerous benefits that wait for those who are committed to finishing. What are some things that are trying to move you right now and what promises in 2 Peter 1:5-11 encourage you to "stand firm?"
- Paul mentioned the following test and asked each of us to see where we stand in light of the 5 statements: Found people find people, Saved people serve people, Blessed people bless people, Forgiven people forgive people, and Growing people are changed people. How do you stack up in those areas?
- How do you respond to unfinished business? With fire (attack it) or mire (too stuck to even try)? Take a moment to read 2 Timothy 1:6 and ask God to "fan into flame" the fire inside you.