

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

Sometimes the biggest resource we waste is time, and in Week 3 of the 10 series, Phil Baucom challenged all of us to begin paying attention to what we give our time to. The Big Idea for the day – where our attention goes, our identity follows – is a good reminder of just how important it is to do 2 hard – but critical - things:

1. **Track your attention.** Man, we're busy, and Phil did a great job pointing out how quickly the 24 hours we're given each day can vanish. Sometimes the best thing we can do as we fight the battle of time waste is simply start taking the intentional step of tracking what we do with our time. Is it fruitful for Jesus' kingdom? Could it lead me into sin? Is it a responsible use of my time? Does it set a good example for others? Does it allow me to give Jesus enough of my time? How can I give him more? These are the tough questions that we need to start asking ourselves because Ephesians 5:15 calls us to look carefully at how we live.
2. **Trace your identity.** What we give out time to (our attention) is often what we draw our worth from (our identity). If I work 80 hours a week, my identity is as a hard worker. But our identity as believers is that we are children of God before we are workers of God. We need to give out attention to Jesus first so that we remember that he is our identity, not what we do for him. If we don't, it's easy to get off track and lose our first love (which is what happened to the Ephesians – see Revelation 2:4).

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?
- How do you feel about tracking your attention? Curious? Nervous?
- What do you think takes up the majority of your time each week? Which of the negotiables and/or the non-negotiables that Phil listed really hit home with you?
- We love 1-10 scales, don't we?? Rate yourself on how well you think you handle your time.
- Read 1 Corinthians 10:23 and discuss the pros and cons of Jesus NOT giving us specific dos and don'ts about time management.
- Consider the following statement from the message: "What you give your attention to will flourish. What you ignore will waste away." What is flourishing or wasting away in your life right now?
- Phil asked a hard question: If you gave your husband or wife the attention you give Jesus, would they leave you? Discuss the ramifications of that question among your group/family/circle.
- What is something that you could give up right now and replace the time it took with Jesus? What would be the hardest part of making that switch? The best part?
- It takes 10,000 dedicated hours to be considered an expert in that area. Just for fun, figure out how long it would take to be an expert follower of Jesus if you only gave him your attention for 2 hours every Sunday. How would that time change if he had your attention everyday for 2 hours?

More tools and daily encouragement throughout the 10 series are at www.thegatheringnow.com/ten.