

The Gathering Community Group Guide

The 10 Series – Week 7 // Maximize your poTENial

Pastor Paul Jenkins

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John 14:12

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

This week Pastor Paul taught on a shocking truth found in John 14:12 – we all have the potential to do greater things on this earth than Jesus did. Of course, the question is what unlocks that potential, and as Pastor Paul pointed out, the key is brokenness. This week's Big Idea – **our response to brokenness unlocks our potential for greatness** – focuses on embracing two truths when many people only recognize one. They are:

1. **Everyone knows the hurt of brokenness.** The harsh truth of brokenness is that living is the only thing necessary to qualify us for it. If we're breathing, at some point we'll be hurting because brokenness finds its way into everyone's life at some point. Sometimes we make bad choices that cause self-inflicted pain, but even if we made all the right choices, we'd still be hurt. Jesus said in this world we'd have trouble (John 16:33) and that's true whether we believe in him or not.
2. **Only some know the hope of brokenness.** It's one thing to embrace the universal reality of brokenness. It's quite another thing to embrace the hope that can come from it. Brokenness opens the door for Jesus to be near us, to touch us, to heal us and to make it possible for all of that grace to move through us to the hurting people around us. That's why it's so important that we respond to brokenness by inviting Jesus into it. He alone can redeem the broken pieces of our lives and make something beautiful from them.

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?
- When something breaks, what is your first response? How does this relate to Pastor Paul saying that brokenness reveals what is in us?
- How is your response different if you break something of yours versus when someone else breaks something of yours? What role does grace play in the equation?
- How do you respond to someone else's brokenness? Do you press in closer or pull away? Discuss your answers.
- According to Luke 20:18, who will be broken? What do you think the difference is between "broken" and "crushed?" Which would you rather experience?
- Our response to brokenness is what either unlocks our potential or keeps us from our potential for greatness. With so much to gain by giving Jesus the broken things in our lives, do you think so many of us find it hard to do? Take the time to pray with members of your group about this.

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