

The Gathering Community Group Guide

The 10 Series – Week 8 // A path straightENed

Phil Baucom

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John 15:5; Joshua 1:7; Galatians 2:20

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

Week 8 of the 10 Series was all about getting straightENed out. Phil used the analogy of a car being aligned to help us see that the power behind this week's Big Idea – **when you're aligned with Jesus, you just go straight.** There are 3 questions we need to answer about alignment with Jesus that can help us find a path straightENed:

1. **Why should I align with Jesus?** Well, the brutal answer was because we suck. John 15:5 tells us that apart from Jesus we can't do anything, and that's because when we're not aligned with Jesus, we naturally veer away from the straight path and tend to end up running in circles. Most of us have experienced the truth of the statement that it's easy to veer of the straight path, but hard to get back on it. That's what we need to align with Jesus.
2. **How do I align with Jesus?** There are lots of things that we could say – and many preachers take the opportunity to say them – but as Phil pointed out, aligning our lives with Jesus really just boils down to one step: learning the Bible and submitting to its authority. Joshua's instruction to the Israelites before they went into the Promised Land (in Joshua 1:6-9) was basically "learn the Bible inside and out so you don't mess up!" It's still good instruction for us today.
3. **What happens when I align with Jesus?** Quite simply, you begin to look like Jesus. In fact, at times in the New Testament the followers of Jesus were mistaken for Jesus or for gods (see Acts 4:13 and Acts 14)! Paul said in Galatians 2:20 that it wasn't even himself living, but Jesus living in him. Think about that! The more we're aligned with Jesus, the less we need to be told what to do and the more we simply do the things that Jesus did. Naturally, we'll start to look like him, too.

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?
- Phil used the analogy of aligned tires to illustrate how important it is for us to live lives aligned (straightened) with Jesus. Have you ever driven a car that wasn't aligned? Describe that experience.
- What do people mean when they describe life as "a rat race?" Describe a time in your life when you felt stuck?
- Some people see the Bible as a rulebook, but according to John 1:1, the Bible is more like a picture book of Jesus. Which one best describes how you've always seen the Bible (a rule book or a picture book)?
- Read Galatians 2:20. What does Paul mean when he says that Jesus lives in him? How does that look in our everyday lives?
- If you've been following the 10/10/10 Reading Plan during the 10 Series, discuss how the consistent reading of the Bible has helped you keep your life straightened with Jesus and his truth.

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