

The Gathering Community Group Guide

The 10 Series – Week 9 // Fully exTENDED

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John 12:32-33

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

As we close in on the end of the 10 Series, Pastor Paul took week 9 and talked about how Jesus was fully extended on the cross and that we're called to live our lives fully extended as well. When we live our lives in this way, we will experience the truth of the Big Idea: **we reach for what we value**. If we live our lives extended toward God and man, we can expect 5 things to be true:

1. **An extended life is one of dependence.** When we are fully extended, we are simultaneously at our most productive and our most vulnerable. So when we reach toward Jesus and the lost, we need to depend on God to protect us.
2. **An extended life is one of difficulties.** Paul shares in 2 Corinthians 11:23-28 all the difficulties he faced in the preaching of the gospel, and it won't be any different for us when we live lives extended in ministry.
3. **An extended life is one of discernment.** Quite simply, discernment allows us to understand the WHY behind the WHAT and it replaces our assumptions with awareness. Having it helps us endure the difficulties.
4. **An extended life is one of discipline.** Discipline helps us say no to good things in order to say yes to greater things. An extended life doesn't do what it wants as much as it does what Jesus needs.
5. **An extended life is one of desire.** When we live extended, we live with passion and that passion attracts others to the life we're living. When we go all in, we draw others in, 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?
- Pastor Paul asked the question: Are you living your life in a way that gives God something to protect? How would you answer?
- Discuss the difference between a life of full dependence on God and a life of reckless behavior.
- Describe a time when you experienced a paradigm shift (saw a situation differently)? How did it change how you responded?
- What are some good things that can get in the way of the best things?
- Pastor Paul mentioned what he calls "the pocket test" (how much money on the ground will get your hands out of your pockets) as a way to illustrate that **we reach for what we value**. Spiritually, what holds enough value to make you leave your comfort and reach out?
- Read 2 Timothy 4:7 and talk about the power of leaving without regret. How did verse 6 (being fully extended) help Paul do this?

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