

The Gathering Community Group Guide

The 10 Series – Week 1 // Be inTENTIONal

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Philippians 3:13-15

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 1 of the 10 series challenged all of us to be intentional about taking three very specific steps found in Philippians 3:13-15. Pastor Paul encouraged each of us to:

1. **Forget what Jesus has forgotten.** We spend so much time in our lives looking back and events that we can never change, and Paul said in Phil. 3:13 that we need to learn to forget what is behind us. The reason we can do this? Because Jesus has forgotten it. His sacrifice on the cross accomplished what was necessary to free us from our past.
2. **Focus on what Jesus is doing.** So many times, we try to forget things but we can't because we never focus on anything new. Instead of looking at our past, it helps to focus on what Jesus is doing in the present: encouraging you, finishing you, praying for you, remaking you.
3. **Fill your life with what Jesus is saying.** At some point we have to get intentional about changing the way we think, and that's best done by changing what we look at. Our goal is to get each one of you spending time in the Bible EVERY DAY for the next 10 weeks. Spending time looking in God's word will change the way we think which in turn will change the things we do.

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?
- What are the 4 spiritual disciplines that Pastor Paul is challenging each of us to develop over the next 10 weeks? (**10 minutes in the Bible, 10 percent in our giving, 10 nights in community and 10 conversations about our Bible readings**)
- Of these four, which will be the most challenging for you? The most exciting? The most rewarding?
- Why do you think it's so critical to give God the FIRST ten? (**we often lose time and energy as the day goes along, sometimes waiting until the end is when we aren't at our best**)
- Pastor Paul talked a lot about how critical it is that we be intentional during the next 10 weeks. Is being intentional something that comes easily for you or not?
- Discuss your reaction to the following statement: When we're religious, we read the Bible and see others; when we're repentant, we read the Bible and see ourselves.
- Have you received the 10/10/10 reading plan? How are you doing with the readings? What have you learned so far this week?

Encourage each person in your group to take advantage of the special site that we've set up for the 10 series. They can access tools and read daily encouragement at www.thegatheringnow.com/ten.