

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.

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## Consider...

Use the summary and discussion to review and apply this week's message:

### Message Summary

Sometimes we find ourselves looking at "rock stars" in the faith and thinking that they never had to deal with the mistakes we've made, but the truth of the matter is that they have, and they've allowed God to take those mistakes and use them to form the cake – or foundation – of their lives. The part we see that looks so God is just the icing. In week 15 of our journey through Acts, Pastor Paul showed us how Peter's life was just like that by examining two incredible stories in Acts 9 and the powerful backstory behind them:

1. **The stories:** In the course of about 7 verses, Peter saw a man healed who had been bedridden for 8 years and saw a woman raised from the dead. He made 2 decisions: one was that people don't want to be sick, and the other was that removing distractions would help him see the problem. Often, we do the exact opposite of both of those. But as great as these stories are, it's the backstory of Peter's life that reveals that these miracles were just icing on the cake of a restored life!
2. **The backstory:** Before Peter was a giant in the early church, he was a failure as a disciple of Jesus. He couldn't walk on water, couldn't pray for people to be healed, couldn't protect his Savior and couldn't stand up for his faith. But 2 things happened to Peter that allowed him to become what we would consider a "rock star" in the faith: he was found out and he was filled up.
3. **The point:** In the first healing, Acts 9:32 says that Peter "went here and there among them all." The first takeaway is that we need to not let our mistakes sideline us – it's time for us to get up and move again. Your ministry is out there among the people. Don't allow your past mistakes to keep you from your present ministry. In the second healing, Acts 9:40 says that Peter looked at the dead woman. The takeaway from that is that God never turns a blind eye to the failures in our lives. He sees it all and redeems it all! In fact, GRACE means that God's Redemption Always Changes Everything!

### 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?
- Who is the most famous person you've ever met? What was the experience like? Did they seem "normal" or like a rock star?
- How do you view people differently once you learn the story of how they got to where they are now? How does hearing how they dealt with failure encourage you in your struggles?
- On a scale of 1 to 10 (1 being hard and 10 being easy), how difficult is it for you to be completely found out by others? By God? Take the time to explain your answer.
- Read Ephesians 2:10. How has God been able to work in you in order to prepare you to be used by him? What has he taught you through your past mistakes that you are now using to minister to others?