

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

All of us have experienced spilling – that moment when what's inside us comes out unexpectedly. In Acts 13:2, the early church experienced spilling, too, as God took the best of them and sent them out to further his kingdom. He still does that today, and Paul explained that since **we're filled so we can spill**, there are some important things to keep in mind:

1. **You will spill:** Overflow is a natural part of how we were all created, and no matter how hard we might try to avoid it, at some point what's inside us will come out. Jesus said that trees naturally bear fruit. It's inevitable.
2. **You will spill what you're filled with:** Not only will we spill, but we'll spill what we've got inside us. No one would ever expect apple juice to spill out of an orange juice container! Jesus said good trees give good fruit and bad trees give bad fruit, and we know that is true because we've seen it time and time again in our lives and in the lives of others. Grumpy people don't smile when they spill – they growl!
3. **Fill with the spill in mind:** So what should we do if we know that we will inevitably spill and what we spill is what we're filled with? We should fill ourselves with the things we want to spill out of our lives! Jesus said to store good things in us so that good things would come out of us! In Acts 13:2, Barnabas and Saul were 2 men out of 5 who were filling themselves as full as they possibly could with the presence of God so that they would be ready when God sent them out to spill his love and mercy on their culture. We need to do the same.

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?
- All of us have had moments when we leaked and were surprised by what spilled out. Take the time to share some of the times you experienced that (good or bad).
- What steps do you take when you know that what you're working on will be made public (project, paper, visitors in your home)? How could those same steps apply to "filling with the spill in mind?"
- Paul mentioned that learning to be still is a critical step towards filling ourselves with godly things. How easy or hard is it for you to be still? How hard do you think it might be for God to fill a "moving target?"
- Read Psalm 101:3 and discuss how extreme we should be in applying this verse in a culture where there seems to be "evil things" everywhere we look.
- How does hiding God's word in our hearts keep us from sin (Psalm 119:11)?