

# Community Group Guide

## No Matter What – Part 1

The Gathering

Paul Jenkins

May 27, 2012

Various

Community Groups are the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering. It is through the interaction that takes place in each of these groups around our area that will enable people to begin to move 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. Your role is to help facilitate this encounter with God in His Word through His Body, not just to complete the guide. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid group task list.

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## HEY!

Begin your group time by engaging in relational conversations and prayer that may include the following elements:

**Greet each other**—a simple, brief time to greet one another (especially new friends), enjoy refreshments, and make announcements.

**Week in review**—a time to review the truths discussed last week and report on how members have had success or frustrations in applying those truths during the week. The leader will want to provide encouragement and shepherding during this time. Periodically, the leader will also want to review the gospel and allow members to share reports about opportunities they've had to share the gospel. Occasionally, the leader will want to revisit the vision for the group and discuss ways to accomplish that vision better.

**Opening prayer**—a time of general prayer with the whole group praying for struggles regarding the application of truths, for those with whom the group is sharing the gospel, and for understanding of today's truths.

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## SAY!

Use the following summary and questions to review this week's message and reflect on its implications in our lives:

### Message Summary

This week we kicked off a brand new series called "No Matter What" and it focuses on how we can live unstoppable for the Lord. The main point of the series states that **we can stand no matter what when we know Who matters most**. In part 1, Pastor Paul talked about associations and how they affect each one of us. The big idea from this first week is that **following the right person leads us to the right place**. We broke that statement into two parts:

1. **Following the right person...** The Bible says a lot about relationships, and Psalm 1 says that we're blessed or not blessed based solely on who we follow. Proverbs 13:20 confirms the importance of our associations when it says we grow wise or foolish depending on who we're around.
2. **Leads us to the right place...** The idea of "tethering" isn't new to this tech-savvy culture, and it means that one device is attached to another and gains from what the first device has. When we tether ourselves to (or follow) Jesus, we can know with absolute certainty that we will go where He is because 2 Corinthians 2:14 says that Jesus always leads us to victory. John 14:3 is just as clear when Jesus told His disciples that the end result was that they would be with Him where He is. We can rest assured that no matter what we face, our destiny in Christ is sure: He will lead us to the right places of grace, peace, and victory!

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### **Discuss**

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- When you think about the importance of relationships, what comes to mind first: a relationship that led you to the wrong places or the right places?
- How have relationships helped you grow wise like Proverbs 13:20 talks about?
- Read the following scriptures and talk about the benefits of following (being tethered to) Jesus. Matthew 11:28-30; John 15:5; Hebrews 6:19-20; 1 Corinthians 15:57
- Read Isaiah 43:2 and Psalm 23:4. Take some time to talk about the concept of “passing through.” How does that one truth help us deal with the hard times in life?
- Because John 14:6 says that Jesus is the only way, then He is literally our only lifeline through the difficult passages of our lives. How much more important does that make John 15:5?
- Just like Michael Jordan lead a bunch of guys we’ve never heard of to NBA championships, Jesus is leading each of His followers to victory. What will change in your life this week as you apply that simple truth?

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### **PRAY!**

*Encourage your group to break out into smaller, same-gender groups where they will respond to the truths of the message. These groups will share with one another based on the following questions and then close in prayer:*

- What are some of the main truths that God wants you to know from the message?
- According to the truths from the message, what does God want you to desire/value?
- How do your desires/values need to change to align with His desires/values?
- What actions does God want you to take according to the truths of this message?
- What is an action that you can start to implement today or tomorrow?

Close this time by praying for each other, specifically for strength in the application of these truths and for the lost people with whom you are seeking to share the gospel.