

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. Use this as a flexible teaching tool not a rigid group task list.

Consider...

Use the summary and questions to **BRIEFLY** review this week's message for those in the group:

Message Summary

When we read Acts 4, it's easy to see that something has changed in Peter. He's no longer the weak man who denied Jesus by the fire, but is now bold and courageous and speaking truth directly to even the most powerful accusers (see vv. 8-12). He's also beginning to look more and more like Jesus (v. 13). This week, we focused on lookalikes, and found that they happen on 3 levels:

1. **Sometimes it's coincidental.** Celebrity lookalikes are a lot like this. We don't try to look like someone famous. There's no thought or effort involved. People just say, "Hey! You look like so and so." Spiritually this is true as well. People may not even love Jesus, but they may look like him from time to time without trying to or meaning to. This is the lowest level of lookalikes.
2. **Other times it's intentional.** This next level is where many Christians are. We try to look like Jesus by simply doing what he did. This is a lot like when couples or families dress alike on purpose: it identifies them as being close, but can often just look cheesy, too. This level is often a sign of a new relationship, and the similarities tend to be externally driven.
3. **In the best of times, it's natural.** The highest level of lookalike is when a son resembles his father, or a married couple finishes each other's sentences. This level isn't about the look as much as it is about the essence of a person. The authorities saw the courage of Peter and it reminded them of Jesus. Not his dress or speech. Something on the inside looked like Jesus. This level is more about being like Jesus internally before acting like Jesus externally.

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?
- Think through The Big Idea: "**If you're fakin', you won't be mistaken. If you're not, it can happen a lot.**" List some characteristics of "fake" Christians and Christians who look like Jesus.
- Read Romans 8:29. What has God destined for each believer? (To become like Jesus)
- One of the greatest factors in looking like Jesus on the highest level is time with Jesus (Acts 4:13 – they took note that these men had been with Jesus). Discuss the need for and the challenge of being patient as God conforms us into the likeness of Jesus.
- I love this quote from Rick Warren: "Christlikeness is not produced by imitation (level 2) but by inhabitation (level 3). We allow Christ to live through us." What areas of your life do you need to allow Jesus to inhabit more?

Commit...

Think and pray through your answers to the following questions in order to commit your life to living out what you've learned this week:

- What are some of the main truths/passages that God wants you to know from this message?
- Based on that truth/passage, what is an action that you can start to implement today or tomorrow?