

Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer ways for you to grow personally as well as in community through Personal Growth Guides and Summer School @ The Gathering. Personal Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and will be available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online. You may sign up for Summer School any Sunday between now and June 9.

COMMUNITY GROUPS WILL BEGIN AGAIN THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15TH

Consider...

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

Message Summary

In week 25 of our journey through the book of Acts, we come to the chapter 19, the one chapter that Paul jokingly said we could call the chapter "most likely to freak people out" because of how the content takes a very pronounced shift toward spiritual things. This week we took a look at 12 men who were missing something and who said "yes" when the apostle Paul offered them the Holy Spirit. Paul divided the teaching into 2 sections:

1. **Verses 1-4:** In these verses we meet 12 men whom the author of Acts – Luke – refers to as "disciples" and who said they'd never even heard of the Holy Spirit. As we learned, when Luke uses the term "disciples" he almost always mean "of Jesus." It's safe to assume these men were believers (which Paul calls them in verse 2). They probably had heard of the Holy Spirit, but didn't realize that he had been made available to all men. Many times we can sense something is lacking in our lives and that hole is often the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. **Verses 5-7:** When Paul offered these men the Holy Spirit, their answer was a resounding YES and when he prayed for them, they received the power of the Holy Spirit and began speaking in tongues and prophesying (see, most likely to freak people out!!). We covered what tongues are and what they accomplish in week 4 of this series (and you can watch/study that message on the website).

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 experiences with the Holy Spirit, either positive or negative. Have those experiences opened your heart to his activity or made you more guarded? Explain your answers.
- Read Acts 2:38 and talk about the following statement: "The Holy Spirit is a good gift from a good Father." What role does thankfulness play in receiving gifts? Is it possible to be thankful for the giver even if we don't fully understand the gift?
- According to Acts 1:8 (and also the entire chapter of Acts 19), the Holy Spirit is given more for future needs than for present ones. What role does trust play in receiving something now even if we don't fully understand how we'll need it later?
- During the teaching, Paul made the following statement: "The Holy Spirit isn't given so we can do weird things in church, but rather so we can do warfare outside the church." How does the purpose of the Holy Spirit in John 16:8-11 keep us from doing things that call attention to ourselves?
- Have you made your knowledge of something an idol by refusing to accept anything that YOU don't understand? Repent. Like the 12 disciples in Acts 19:1-7, are you open to saying YES to the offer for more of the Holy Spirit? Pray for one another to receive more of him.