

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

If we were honest, most of us would admit that serving Jesus isn't always everything we thought it would be. It's harder, it's slower, and it consumes us in ways that wreck us. As Paul pointed out from Acts 19:21-43, the Gospel is a lot like the main character in the movie "Wreck-It Ralph." It's big and seems to get in the way of our plans. But the reason **the Gospel is a glorious wrecking ball** is because God wrecks us in order to rebuild us. Here are three areas where the Gospel can wreck us:

1. **The Gospel wrecks our ideas about the Gospel.** All of us have ideas about what we think the Gospel is: something that makes us happy, gives us peace and makes things better. But in Acts 19:23, it didn't bring peace. It brought a disturbance that led to a riot! Why? Because before the Gospel can bring peace, it brings confrontation over my sin and your sin and the sin of others. That wrecks us.
2. **The Gospel wrecks our value systems.** The first reason for the riot was a loss of money. The people who made a living off of idols for a false god were going out of business because people were responding to the Gospel about Jesus. When you and I really understand the Gospel, not only will our hearts be changed, but our values will, too. That means our spending habits might change, also.
3. **The Gospel wrecks our religious beliefs.** Many of us still have a lot of religion in us, and the Gospel confronts that. Religion is about us, but the Gospel is about Jesus. Religion may require an hour or two each week, but the Gospel requires every minute of every day. Religion wants your actions to change, but the Gospel wants your heart to change.

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?
- What are some ideas that you've held about the Gospel that you've since discovered aren't as accurate as you originally believed?
- Paul mentioned three industries – gambling, alcohol and pornography – that could crumble as the Gospel takes root in the hearts of people. How do you think the executives in each of those industries respond? How does this help us understand the riot that we read about in Acts 19?
- What are some specific ways that your values and spending habits have changed as a result of the Gospel?
- One of the most dangerous results of religious practices is that they encourage us to "compartmentalize" our lives, and so when the Gospel and Jesus begin to spill over into every area of our lives, it can feel like a wreck. What are some areas where the Gospel has wrecked (or is wrecking) you?
- Read Hosea 6:1 and respond to the hope that the following statement gives you: "The Gospel wrecks us to rebuild us." How is God rebuilding you?