

The Gathering Growth Guide

The Big Oh! Week 3 // Taking and making

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September 22, 2013

Matthew 4:19

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 the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

COMMUNITY GROUPS ARE BACK!! THERE IS STILL TIME TO SIGN UP ON THE GROUPS PAGE AT THEGATHERINGNOW.COM OR AT THE CONNECTION DESK ON SUNDAYS. THERE ARE 2 WEEKS LEFT IN OUR 3 WEEK TRIAL PERIOD.

Consider...

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

Message Summary

This week we move on to one of the most – if not THE most – shocking things Jesus ever said. “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.” (Matthew 4:19) Paul took that statement and broke it into 2 sections in order to really help us understand the impact of what Jesus was saying:

1. **“Follow me...”** We often read these 2 words and don't really stop to consider the implications of them. Among many, Paul pointed out these 4: we must move, there is a new direction, we must trust the leader and we have to surrender our rights to decide where we go. Any of these (or all of them!) can be hard to do, but the good news is that we don't do them for no reason. God isn't trying to make us miserable for his pleasure. Instead, he has a much greater plan in mind!
2. **“And I will make you...”** Once we make the decision to follow Jesus, we begin to understand that he will lead us into places and situations specifically to make our identity new. He doesn't want us to do as much as he wants us to be, because Jesus knows that when our identity changes, so will our actions. And so he takes us places in order to make us into the people he desires for us to be. The really good news is that HE MAKES US NEW! We don't have to struggle under the weight of trying to do new things. We simply have to make the decision to follow Jesus. He does the rest!

Discuss

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

- Would you consider yourself a thrill seeker? Why or why not?
- What is the riskiest thing you've ever done in life? As a follower of Jesus?
- Looking back over your notes from the past week, was there anything that confused you or really caught your attention?
- Paul talked about how the call to “follow Jesus” implied movement, direction, trust and surrender. Which of these is the hardest for you? The easiest?
- This week's Big Idea says that **WHERE God is TAKING you explains WHO God is MAKING you**. How is God using the situations you're in right now to make you into a new person?
- In today's culture, there is so much emphasis placed on all that we do, and yet we are human “beings” not human “doings.” How does the truth of 1 Thessalonians 5:24 help?
- Read Mark 10:27. God puts us in impossible situations to do the impossible. Why is that?