

The Gathering Growth Guide

Blessed! // Week 3 // What to do with stupid people

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Various

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 with a break from Community Groups during the. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family as you prepare to attend your Community Group.

COMMUNITY GROUPS ARE BETTER WHEN YOU COME TO GROUP HAVING PREPARED WITH THIS GUIDE!!

Consider...

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

Message Summary

In the first 2 weeks of our Blessed! series, we've discovered that God absolutely wants us to be blessed (the Greek word for blessed can also mean "happy") and that the point of our happiness is so that we can pour out blessings on others around us. This week, in part 3 of the series, we tackle the biggest question of them all: why are there times that we don't feel blessed? Instead of pretending that we don't have bad days, Paul took a look at 3 "blessing blockers" that all of us have faced and will face again, and then we looked at what the answer is to each.

1. **Blessing Blocker #1: sin.** All of us see this, even if we don't like the word sin. People who don't even follow Jesus will still try to cover up the things they do that are wrong, because sin closes us off instead of opening us up. The only answer for sin is repentance, and Acts 3:19 promises us that we'll be refreshed when we seek it.
2. **Blessing Blocker #2: situations.** We aren't so concerned with sinful situations, but more so, the difficult times in life that the Bible says should be expected. These are the dark days, when emotionally we want to check out because of circumstances going on around us that seem out of our control. The Bible says that God steps INTO those situations with us (see Zephaniah 3:17), and so the answer for situations is trust, because no matter what we face, Jesus is leading us through it to victory.
3. **Blessing Blocker #3: stupid people.** It sounds harsh to call someone stupid, but these are the people who do things to us or around us that can negatively impact our happiness. We'll all encounter these types of people, and the answer to how we should deal with them is humility, mostly because we've been stupid before, too, and Jesus loved us anyway. Humility keeps our hearts from growing hard toward the stupid people who hurt us.

Discuss

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

- As you've thought back through this week's message, what one thing – if any – inspired you or maybe even confused you?
- Which of the three blessing blockers – sin, situations, and stupid people – are you dealing with right now?
- Paul mentioned that most sin is the right thing done at the wrong time or with the wrong attitude. Give some examples of how this is true.
- How does Acts 3:19 change your view of repentance (if at all)?
- Take the time to read 2 Corinthians 4:8-9. Those are some tough situations! But the same man who wrote that also wrote 2 Corinthians 3:14 and 4:16-18. How can seeing the eternal help us stay blessed?
- Who are the difficult people that most of us deal with on a regular basis? (bosses, coworkers, relatives, friends) When we see them in light of what we think we deserve, it leads to pride. But when we see them in light of the cross – as sinful people in tough situations – we begin to realize that we all were like that (and may be again!). Read the following passages to learn how this helps us deal with stupid people: 1 Peter 3:8-9; Colossians 3:13; Ephesians 4:32.