

The Gathering Community Group Guide

The Helper // Part 4 // Turning up the heat

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Daniel 3 and others

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 BETTER WHEN MEMBERS COME PREPARED. TAKE TIME BEFORE GROUP TO GO OVER THIS GUIDE.

Consider...

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

Message Summary

Learning about the Holy Spirit and staying the same is like lighting a stick of dynamite and expecting nothing to change when it blows up! As we begin to get more specific about what the Helper wants to do, or more specifically, what he wants to do through us, we need to remember that. Last week, we talked about the inside job that the Helper is doing on followers of Jesus, and this week Paul talked about 4 things he needs to do in order to get us ready for the mission he's going to SEND us on.

1. **Settle us:** Before we can ever be sent out for God, we've got to be settled about God, and that's the first thing we saw in the 3 Jewish men who wouldn't bow to the king's idol. God didn't have to do anything else for them in order for them to stand for him. They knew like cement in their souls who God was, and who they were with him, and that was enough. They were immovable.
2. **Engulf us:** As a result of being settled, they got thrown into the fire. People who are sent out are affected by trials, but they aren't surprised by them. The Holy Spirit is a fire, and when he consumes us, the fires we face can't, because the fire inside us is greater than the fires around us!
3. **Nestle us:** It just makes sense, doesn't it, that if we're settled about God and his plan for us, that we'll find safety in his presence no matter what's going on around us. Because we're full of his fire, we're fully protected in the fire. Psalm 91 says we're safe under his wing, and that's good to know when we're being sent into a spiritual fight for the souls of men. The enemy is strong, but the Helper's protection is stronger!
4. **Distinguish us.** It's interesting that the King didn't identify the 3 men as God's servants until they had been through the fire! Nothing distinguishes us as God's children more than being consumed with his fire but not consumed by the enemy's fire. **What the enemy uses to extinguish us, God uses to distinguish us.**

Discuss

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

- What, if any, is your takeaway from this week's message?
- Have you ever been burned? What happened, and how did you react? What did you learn? How can that relate to being consumed by the fire of the Holy Spirit?
- In the message, Paul said, "When the Helper consumes us, the fires we face can't, because the fire inside us is greater than the fires around us." How do you respond to that? Would you say that the Holy Spirit consumes you? What does a consumed life look like?
- The fires into which we are thrown become the fires in which we are grown, and so often our ministry is born in our misery. Read Genesis 50:20. What are you facing now that God could be turning for your good? What are you learning that you can share with others in that same fire?
- Read 1 Corinthians 1:18-22 and highlight all of the "settled" words. It might be good to end the group praying for members who are in unsettling situations. Pray for a grounded, settled confidence in God's "yes."