

The Gathering Community Group Guide

The Helper // Part 6 // Tongues and People of Walmart

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1 Corinthians 14

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

This week, we looked why tongues can be so beneficial to us as believers and also why they always seem like a big deal to everybody, regardless of whether or not we agree on them! Paul showed us that there is a public use and a private use of this gift, and that most of the confusion around this gift comes when we go public with what God meant to be private. Here are the recaps of the main points:

1. **First things first:** Before we could even learn about the power of tongues, we needed to ask if they have ceased and, if not, why are they so confusing? We saw in 1 Corinthians 13:12 that, until we see Jesus face to face, we'll need this gift from the Helper. We also saw that abusing the gift publicly causes all kinds of problems, and so the Big Idea says it well: in public, be careful; in private, be carefree.
2. **The best Wi-Fi:** There are all kinds of benefits to a personal prayer language, and almost all of them hinge on the idea that the private grace of tongues connects us more strongly to our Father than the most reliable Wi-Fi we've ever had. Praying in the Spirit builds us up, increases our faith, and completes our armor!
3. **More desire, less demand:** Knowing all the benefits and having confidence that a prayer language is scriptural should set us free to desire it more, but often the fear of men who seem to demand "evidence" of a prayer language can turn us off. But don't let it! Sure, we can play the game without all the equipment, but why would we ever say no to a gift from the best father? You and I need all the building up we can get!

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?
- What are some things that should stay private? Have you ever had something private go public? What happened as a result?
- If you could speak another language, what would it be and why? If you speak multiple languages, what are the advantages?
- Read 1 Corinthians 14:2 and 14:4. A prayer language is the private expression of the gift of tongues. Does speaking mysteries to God and edifying ourselves sound like a godly thing or a bad thing? What keeps us from praying in the Spirit more often?
- Have you been taught anything contrary to scripture about praying in tongues? What do you think would keep a person from receiving the gift of tongues?
- Have you ever found yourself "stuck" in prayer - running out of words before your heart was done praying? Read Romans 8:26-27 and 1 Corinthians 2:10b-11 and discuss how the Helper is a benefit to us in that situation.
- For more study, read **The God I Never Knew**, by Robert Morris and **The Holy Spirit**, by John Bevere.