

The Gathering Community Group Guide

The Helper // Part 9 // The best puzzle ever

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1 Corinthians 12 and 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. 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

As we begin to bring *The Helper* series to a close over the next few weeks, we'll begin to look at what the Helper has given to us in order to help us carry out the mission he's given us: taking the good news of Jesus to the world. Any time we feel called to such an overwhelming task, it's easy to feel inadequate. Paul referred to that feeling as "gaps" that all of us feel and need to have filled. What we learned this week is that God uses the gifts of the Spirit and the people in the church to make the best puzzle ever, and just like puzzle pieces fit perfectly, so does the church when we allow the gifts from the Helper to fill the gaps with grace.

1. **How God fills the gaps:** Remember the Oreo and how love is what keeps everything together like the cream between the wafers? Filling the gap is something that is so vital, God didn't leave it to chance. The Helper gives gifts as he determines, and God arranges the members of the body with purpose. Like a coach, God places us in the best position to win the game.
2. **What God fills the gaps with:** He fills the gap with grace, but the grace is like the jelly in a jelly-filled donut: it's hidden inside a "carrier." God's grace for filling the gap actually comes through the gifts – the "charisma" or "grace gifts" – that Paul mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10. Seeking, using, and allowing others to use the gifts is a major way that God fills the gaps we all have with his grace.

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?
- Rate yourself on the clumsy scale with 1 being accident proof and 10 being accident-prone. Give stories and examples from your life (tripping or stumbling in public, etc.) to back up your answer!
- Read Revelation 10:2 and picture how intentional that angel must have been when he stood there! That's the same care that God took in placing us so that we could fill one another's gaps! Now that should make all of us want to stand and strike a superhero pose because we've got purpose!
- The best gifts are delivered with care. If they're mailed, we get tracking numbers. If they're hand delivered, we place them in the hands of the person we're giving it to. The intentional care that God takes in distributing the gifts of the Spirit reveal the value of the gifts – and the importance of allowing them to fill the gaps in our lives.
- Read the list of gifts out loud: knowledge, wisdom, discernment of spirits, prophecy, tongues, interpretation of tongues, faith, healings and miracles. Which of these could fill a gap that you're facing right now? Next week we'll talk more specifically about how the different gifts function, but for now, end the group by praying for each other and asking the Helper to use those gifts this week as gap fillers.