

The Gathering Community Group Guide

SatisFACTION // Week 1 // It is finished

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November 1, 2015

John 19:30

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

In the first part of our "Satisfaction" series, we looked at the work that Jesus accomplished on the cross and how the completion of that work provides us with a solid foundation on which to rest our faith.

1. **It is finished:** One of the most important statements ever spoken by Jesus was a one-word declaration from the cross: "Tetelestai." The word means "it is finished" and, even more specifically, that the work done once by Christ is effective and echoes throughout eternity. It IS finished. Not partially, but completely.
2. **What is "it?"** What did Jesus accomplish? Simply everything that we could not. To use the illustration from Sunday, Jesus hung the hammock that we couldn't and provided a rest for us that we can trust with our whole lives. He fulfilled the law and the prophecies. He entered darkness as the light and is the only way out of the darkness. He reconciled men back to God (there's that hammock!), and he paid IN FULL a debt that was fully unpayable by us.
3. **So now what?** Imagine if another person really did pay off your monetary debt? You wouldn't be silent about it, and if you knew that the same benefactor wanted to pay off your friend's and family's debts, you'd RUN to tell them! Doing the "work" of spreading the news is only possible because the benefactor did the work that made the news first. It's the same with Jesus. The end of his work is actually the beginning of ours, because he's commanded us to now go and make disciples of all nations by telling them what he's done for them and teaching them how to follow him. By resting in his work (the hammock), we find ourselves ready for the rest of ours.

Discuss

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

- Have you ever experienced someone else paying off a debt for you? What was that like, and how did you respond?
- We've got lots of verses to read that show us how much it means to be "in Christ" (or, in the hammock!). Take the time to read these together and talk about what each verse highlights as something we gain in Christ.
 - Romans 3:24 Romans 8:1-2 Romans 8:39
 - Romans 12:5 1 Corinthians 1:2 1 Corinthians 15:22
 - 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 2 Corinthians 2:14 2 Corinthians 3:14
 - 2 Corinthians 5:17 Galatians 3:26-29 Ephesians 1:3
 - Ephesians 2:6 Ephesians 2:10 Ephesians 2:13
- Did you pay attention to how your spirit reacted as your group read through these FACTS about being in Christ? Our guess is that you felt 2 simultaneous emotions: confidence deep down in your soul about what Christ has done, and a passion to tell someone about it. This is the rest we find in Christ (in the hammock), and it makes us ready to do the rest of our work (spreading the gospel).