

The Gathering Community Group Guide

SatisFACTion // Week 2 // We are small, seen and safe

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Genesis 16:13; Psalm 91:11-16

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

It seems a little counterintuitive to talk about being small and being able to rest in the same breath, but that's because we lose small things all the time! But not God. In fact, this week we learned three facts about us that can help us find SatisFACTion: we are small, but we are seen and we are safe. When we realize these truths, we begin to see that the value in being small is that God values small things!

1. **We're small:** No one likes to think of themselves as small (did you know that my name, Paul, means "tiny?"), but when we consider the vastness of the universe and then the even "vaster" vastness of its Creator, we can't help but find ourselves echoing David's question in Psalm 8:4 – "who is man that you are mindful of him?"
2. **We're seen:** It's a great question, and the first part of the answer lies in the fact that we're worth finding! God sent Jesus on a mission to SEEK the lost, and that means that even though we're small, we're seen by God, just like back in the day when he saw Hagar after she'd been mistreated and abused in Genesis 16.
3. **We're safe:** It's great to know that God sees us, but being seen and being safe aren't always guaranteed to go together, are they? Like Paul said in the message, can you imagine the joy you'd feel at being seen by rescuers, and then the hopelessness you'd feel if the same rescuers who saw you left without securing your safe release? Luke 19:10 promises us that Jesus' mission was to seek (we're seen!) AND to save (we're safe!) the lost (that was us!).

Discuss

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

- What takeaway – if any – did you have from the message this week?
- What possessions have you recently lost? Recently found?
- In the message, Paul asked how small a coin could be for you to still pick it up? Why do you think it's so easy to "overlook" or ignore small things? Read Luke 15:1-2 to see who is in the audience hearing the 3 "Lost" stories in this chapter. Which group was most likely to think some things (or people) weren't worth seeing?
- What took place at the end of all three stories when what was lost had been found? (Hint: they're fun and usually involve food and games!) What song would have been playing at the party in heaven when YOU were found (come on, get creative!!)? Do you rejoice when others are found?
- We know we're valued because we were worth finding, and that value only goes up when we realize that we're worth protecting! What are some things you would protect at all costs?
- What can we learn about God's protection in these verses? How do they lead us to satisFACTion?
 - Isaiah 41:10 2 Thessalonians 3:3 Psalm 46:1
 - Proverbs 19:23 Isaiah 54:17 James 4:7
 - 2 Timothy 4:18 2 Samuel 22:3-4 Psalm 138:7