

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. THIS GUIDE HAS BEEN PROVIDED AS A TOOL FOR THAT.

Consider...

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

Message Summary

It stands to reason that, as we're on a mission to find the lost, we're going to find people who are in pretty bad situations. So bad, in fact, that it can be easy to think that some of the worst among us are beyond the redemptive reach of God. But in the final few verses of Luke 13, Jesus made it clear that no one is so lost that he or she cannot be found, even if that person is stuck in one of his or her worst moments. This week's Big Idea simply reminds us that, when God is involved, no moment can stop the movement.

1. **Sometimes it can be hard to see past the moment.** Jesus was asked if a lot of people would be saved, and in a culture that believed you would be saved just because you were a Jew, Jesus talked about a narrow door and how hard it would be for some people to pass through it. Who were those people? Jews who couldn't see past the bad moments of the Gentiles. People who can't repent by trusting that God's grace can help them move past their worst moments toward a life in the grace-filled movement of the kingdom of Jesus. Sometimes it can be hard to see past the moment – ours or another's – but when we do, we find ourselves in a movement of forgiven and changed people coming from the east and west and north and south" (Luke 13:29)!
2. **Don't freeze the moment; seize the movement!** All of us love pictures because they capture moments that we never want to forget. But what about when pictures capture moments that we never want to remember? What do we do with those moments? When Jesus was presented with 2 bad moments – Herod's and Jerusalem's rejection of Him – He didn't "freeze" them in the moments; instead, He seized the moments and showed how the movement He had started would carry on past them. When we seize the worst moments of our lives and the lives of others who are lost, we repent for them and enter the narrow door that leads to a movement of grace and new life. Truly, **no moment can stop the movement!**

Discuss

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

- What are some of your favorite pictures? What are some of the worst pictures?
- Have you ever been locked out of your house or car? Describe how that felt. How did you get in?
- How is repentance a key to allow us to move beyond our worst moments and step through the door into the movement of God? What can we learn about repentance from the following verses? Acts 3:19; Isaiah 30:15; Matthew 3:8; Matthew 4:17; 2 Corinthians 7:9; Acts 11:18
- Have you ever "frozen" others (or felt frozen) in a bad moment? How does that close the door to the future God desires for them (or you)? According to 1 John 1:9, what happens when we repent of our sin? How does the word "all" challenge the way you treat others (or yourself) in light of the worst moments?
- Moses, Abraham, David, Rahab, Paul, Peter. All of these are Biblical examples of people who had really bad moments (in order: murder, adultery, prostitution, murder, denial of Jesus!!) that weren't able to stop God from using them in the movement of the gospel. No one person or moment is too bad for redemption. Read Romans 5:20 to see how God always "out-graces" sin, and then take the time to pray and thank God that **no moment can stop the movement!**