

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

"Shift" can mean a lot of different things. It can take you from one gear to the next or from one season to another. Spiritually, it can simply be the sense that God is up to something new, and for our church, that's exactly what we've been feeling. As our church journeys together from resurrection to revival during this 50 Days to Fire, we believe that God is going to shift us into a new freedom as followers of Jesus. This week, we saw a shift take place in Zacchaeus and were challenged to see the same in ourselves.

1. **A shift is about seeing things differently, not about seeing different things.** It can be tempting to think we need a change of scenery in order to get a new perspective, but a true shift simply gives us a new filter or lens to see things through. We don't actually see something new, but we see our circumstances and surroundings in a new way.
2. **We'll never see what we're not looking for.** How badly do you want to see Jesus? For Zacchaeus, there wasn't one obstacle that was going to keep him from the Lord. For our church, the 50 Days to Fire represents our hunger to see Jesus move in a new way in us and through us. Fasting is one of the ways that God uses to give us new eyes so that we can see the ways He is moving.
3. **The shift from cop to coach.** Until we experience this shift, we'll struggle to understand how Jesus was able to see people the way that He did (and we need to understand it because He's called us to see them the same way he did!). Paul gave us a chart comparing the shift from cop to coach that we've included on the second page of the Growth Guide.

Discuss

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

- How do you deal with change? Does the idea of things shifting excite you or unnerve you? Why do you think people have such different reactions to change?
- Nothing was going to keep Zacchaeus from seeing Jesus. Not guilt over his lifestyle, not the obstacle of the crowd, not the grumbling of others over his reputation. What are some things that can keep you from wanting to be in the presence of Jesus?
- Put yourself in Zacchaeus' shoes. As a tax collector, you're avoided and despised (and as a thief, that makes sense!) and yet Jesus says that He's coming to your house! What are the first things you think? Feel?
- We often judge others who are far from God as if they have no desire to be near God. How does the fact that Zacchaeus welcomed Jesus gladly (v. 6) challenge that assumption?
- Read Isaiah 43:19. How can shifting our view from cop to coach help us perceive the new thing that God is doing? What could we miss if we don't shift?
- Review the chart on the following sheet and list 1-3 areas where you would like to see God shift your heart during 50 Days to Fire.
- Pray for one another as we continue to fast and pray and allow God to do whatever He needs to do in us in order for us to perceive the new things that he is doing.

COP

Tickets the wrong
Causes fear
Points out our mistakes
Focus is on rules
Catches us in the act
External motivation
Sees the problem

COACH

Teaches the right
Inspires faith
Points out our potential
Focus is on relationship
Releases us to act
Internal motivation
Sees the purpose

shift