



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.

### USE THIS GUIDE TO PREPARE FOR THE DISCUSSIONS IN COMMUNITY GROUP.

## Consider...

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

### Message Summary

*It's always an honor to have missionaries with us at The Gathering and hearing their stories about and passion for the countries God has called them to should inspire us and activate us to fulfill the Great Commission to "go and make disciples of all nations." Sometimes, though, we can hear what they're doing and think we just need to get busy and forget the last part of the Great Commission: "I am with you always." This week, as we take a break from our Asking For a Friend series, let's focus on the following statement and discuss how to live it out: **the great things we do for God must flow from the greatest thing we can do with God.** What is that greatest thing? Abide. Be in relationship with him.*

### Discuss

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

- Have you ever fallen into a routine (or rut) with what you were doing that you eventually forgot why you even started doing it in the first place? Share with the group about those experiences.
- All of us have "to do" lists. What are some of the things that are on yours? What are some of the things that might have been on Jesus' "to-do" list?
- Read John 20:21. Notice the phrase "as the Father sent me." "As" points to condition - the "way" that the Father sent Jesus is highlighted more than the "what" that the Father sent Jesus to do.
- The Gospel of John allows an amazing peek into the relationship between Jesus and the Father. Read the following verses and highlight what stands out to you about the relationship Jesus and the Father had. John 5:19; 10:14-18; 11:41-42; 12:49-50; 14:8-10; 15:9-10, 15; 17:20-23
- "As the Father sent me" isn't about what Jesus was sent to do as much as it's about the relationship Jesus had with the Sender. That's really important for us to know, because the rest of John 20:21 says the we're being sent, too, in the SAME WAY that the Father sent Jesus. That means that the Great Commission (activity for God) has to flow out of the Greatest Condition (unity with God). On a scale of 1-10, how unified would you say you feel with Christ right now?
- In light of everything that's been discussed in group tonight, read John 15:5 and talk about why it may be one of the most important statements made by Jesus. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you right now through these words of Jesus?