



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:

The Big Idea

A divided heart leads to a compromised life

Message Summary

In our passage this week we're looking at the 2nd and 3rd occurrences where Jesus raised the standard to a higher level. Instead of being content to not commit adultery or to not get divorced, Jesus challenged His disciples to look past the symptoms and see the cause: a divided heart that ultimately led to a compromised life. Of course, it's not only true in sexual purity and marital faithfulness. Guarding our hearts and the life that Jesus has placed there has to be something that we are intentional about every moment of every day.

Discuss

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

- What comes to your mind when you hear the word "compromise?" When it comes to compromise, do you tend to think of "big sins" or "little thoughts?" How does Jesus address both the big and the little in His teaching?
- How does Matthew 5:29-30 reveal how serious Jesus is about dealing with the issue of lust in our hearts?
- Read Proverbs 4:23 and discuss what it looks like to guard our hearts. What are some of the ways that people often DON'T guard their hearts? What have you seen happen as a result?
- Read James 1:14-15. What stands out to you from these verses about the progressive nature of sin? In the message, Paul said that "gazing turns to grazing and soon the fire's blazing." Have you ever experienced this "look then act then burn" type of situation? Explain.
- Read Job 31:1. Describe in your own words what it mean to make a covenant with your eyes.
- Finally, read Jeremiah 29:3. What does God promise for those who seek Him with an undivided heart? What does this look like on the daily? How can this keep us from compromise?