



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

Kingdom citizens look different because they are different.

Message Summary

As Jesus neared the end of the greatest sermon ever preached, He began to drill down on some very specific marks that would be visible in the lives of those who follow Him. In these 12 verses, Jesus laid out in no uncertain terms that following Him would lead to a **code**, a **cost**, a **change**, and a **communion**. While we know that we're not saved by what we do, we also know that when we trust in Jesus for our salvation, we will live a new life that allows others to see Jesus in us. If any of these Cs are missing, we need to be brave enough and honest enough to ask why and to allow the Spirit to work in us until they're clearly seen.

Discuss

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

- Read Matthew 7:12. Is living by the code (Golden Rule) enough to get a person into heaven? Why or why not? What would you say to someone who thought it was?
- Is there someone this week you have treated in a way that you would not want to be treated? How might you apologize or make amends with that person?
- Read Matthew 7:13-14. In what ways has following Jesus cost you? Of the two gates, which seems more appealing? What do we risk by never talking about the cost of following Jesus?
- Read Matthew 7:15-20. How would you describe this "fruit" test to a new follower of Jesus?
- Read Matthew 7:21-23. What surprises you about those who do great things in Jesus' name but who are ultimately rejected by Jesus? Read John 15:1-8. What do you think the people in Matthew 7 were missing that Jesus reveals in John 15?
- Paul mentioned a code, a cost, a change, and a communion as marks of followers of Jesus. Which is most evident in your life? Which is least evident?