



## Week 22 - June 1

*And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible for one who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out[a] and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!"*

-Mark 9:23-24 ESV

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# Believe That Change Can Happen

The greatest hindrance to a move of God is never external circumstances. The greatest hindrance to the movement of God on the earth is the lack of belief held by those through whom God wants to move.

Because the power of God is manifested according to our faith, we must always consider our capacity for belief when deciding to respond to God's invitation to work on His behalf in the world.

Like the man with the son who had a demon, we must assess our faith posture and be honest about those areas where we're hesitant to believe that the Lord can work a miracle. It is only after we have acknowledged and surrendered those areas to the grace of God that we can see the Lord assist us by giving us the grace for increased faith in who He is and what He can do.

Once our faith is in the right place, we can witness the power of God at work in the most unexpected ways in our homes, our communities, and our world. The upgrade of our faith begins with a simple statement to Jesus: "I believe, help my unbelief."

**Family Question: Where does your faith need to be strengthened so that you can witness the power of God at work in your home, community, or world?**

*PRAYER: Heavenly Father, please give me the grace needed to increase my faith so that I can see your will be done on earth as it is in heaven, in Jesus' name, I ask this. Amen*



## Week 23 - June 8

*And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. Now those who were scattered went about preaching the word.*

-Acts 8:1, 4 ESV

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# Scattered or Sent?

There are moments in our lives when we face what looks like demonic assault and displacement. However, God uses such measures to guide us into a space where our lives align with His will.

In Acts 1:8, Jesus informed the disciples that they would be responsible for spreading the gospel to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and other parts of the world. When we encounter the early church in the book of Acts, they initially spread the gospel only to the areas surrounding Jerusalem. The church was growing in number, but not expanding beyond its original boundaries. Once persecution strikes the church, they become scattered in the regions that they have never previously traveled with the gospel.

Sometimes the Lord uses challenging circumstances to finally get us to spread the gospel in places we would have never ventured. He will send us to jobs we would have never applied for, communities we would have never lived in, and introduce us to individuals we would have never met. It is to remind us that sometimes what initially looks like a demonic scattering is a 'holy sending.'

Consider where God may be sending you to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ and introduce the Kingdom of God. Accept the scattering as an invitation to expand God's reach in this world.

**Family Question: Where has God been inviting you to new spaces? How can you bring the gospel to those areas?**

*PRAYER: Heavenly Father, thank you for giving us uncomfortable nudges so that we may go where You have sent us. Give us the grace to be the conduits of your gospel in those places, in Jesus' name, we ask this, Amen.*



## Week 24 - June 15

*But Peter said, "By no means, Lord; for I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean." And the voice came to him again a second time, "What God has made clean, do not call common."*

-Acts 10:14-15 ESV

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# Look Beyond Your Comfort Zone

God has a way of calling us to ministry that stretches the boundaries of our backgrounds. He will invite a stuttering shepherd to become the mouthpiece of an entire people; He will ask a prophet to preach a redemptive message to the city of his greatest enemies; and He will send us to people who don't fit our self-created versions of His will and work in the world.

This was the case with Peter. Though he was the great preacher of Pentecost who led thousands to become followers of Jesus, he still harbored a very realistic prejudice toward Gentiles. Therefore, before God could send him to the House of a man named Cornelius, he had to show Peter that the work of the Lord would take place outside of his comfort zone.

The same is true with us. We often limit the move of God in our lives to things that we have deemed as acceptable, fitting, and right for the work the Lord wants to do. It is in these moments that the Lord reveals our prejudices and small-minded thinking so that He can expand the borders of our love, vision, and gospel agenda.

It is only then that we can truly see the world through God's eyes, love the world through God's heart, and serve the world through God's hands. Let us look beyond the familiar and routine to see who the Lord may be calling us to reach with the love and gospel of Jesus.

**Family Question: Who is God calling you to serve that you may be second-guessing because of your background and personal prejudices?**

*Heavenly Father, give me the grace to have compassion and see your will in places that are beyond my comfort zone. In Jesus' name I ask this, Amen.*



## Week 25 - June 22

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

-Acts 1:8 ESV

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# Jesus sees them. Can you?

One of the most fascinating aspects of following God is that the Lord will reveal to you visions that far surpass your experiences. He will reveal the blueprint of an ark to a man who has never built a boat, or tell the people to conquer a promised land when they have never left slave fields.

This must be how it felt when Jesus told the disciples the magnitude of their assignment. He informed them that they, Jewish natives, would be taking the gospel to the world.

In the same manner, receiving the call of Jesus for our lives can seem daunting. We have to trust that his vision is accurate and forthcoming, even though our experiences may have never taken us to such a place or produced such an outcome.

The good news is that Jesus doesn't rely solely on our human experience to make it happen. AThrough the person of the Holy Spirit, we would be given the grace to perform, produce, and experience things that are far beyond our human ability. Therefore, let us adjust the lens of our faith and future so that we can see what Jesus sees and pursue it with confidence that – by His grace – it will come to pass.

**Family Question: How will knowing the Holy Spirit empower you for the work of Christ give you peace moving forward?**

*PRAYER: Heavenly Father, give me the grace through your Holy Spirit to see my assignment through the lens of Jesus and not my human limitations. In Jesus' name, I ask this, Amen.*



## Week 25 - June 22

*And falling to the ground, he heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?" And he said, "Who are you, Lord?" And he said, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But rise and enter the city, ~~and you will be told what you are to do.~~"*

-Acts 9:4-6 ESV

# Is God Sending You? Yes He is.

God has a way of calling the most unexpected and seemingly least qualified people for the assignment. However, time reveals that the one who seemed to be the least qualified was a perfect fit for God's plan.

This must have been how Saul felt when he was on the road to Damascus and Jesus encountered him. After knocking him from his beast, the Lord gave a proven and well-known persecutor of Jesus' disciples a personal invitation to the ministry. However, what initially appeared to be a poor choice in chapter nine proves to be the perfect choice for the gospel's movement into the entire world.

Sometimes we can feel unqualified on the day Jesus invites us to join him in a Kingdom assignment. However, Jesus doesn't invite us based on where we are when He finds us. He invites us based on where He is sending us. Our past habits don't qualify or disqualify us. The passion and commitment of our hearts are what arrest the attention of God and become the rationale for inviting us to a holy assignment.

Therefore, let us accept the holy invitation knowing that who we are is not the final version of our character. Who we can become and will become while walking with Jesus awaits us if we are willing to accept the invitation.

## **Family Question: How can knowing that God will shape you to handle the calling give you peace in accepting the invitation?**

*PRAYER: Heavenly Father, help me to know that not only are you calling me, but you are committed to preparing me for what you're inviting me to do with you. In Jesus' name, I ask this, Amen.*