

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

In all of the Bible, there are only 2 times that God was amazed, and only one time that it was a good thing. That time is in our passage this week, when the response of a centurion soldier caused Luke to write that Jesus "was amazed at him." (see verse 9) Of course, that kind of begs the question, doesn't it, about what kind of life amazes Jesus? This week, Paul pointed out 3 things that are evident in that life:

1. **It's a life oriented around grace:** While the centurion simply wanted Jesus to help his servant, the elders whom he sent to get Jesus told Jesus that the centurion "deserved" to have Jesus do this for him! So many times, we live lives based on our works instead of on Jesus' works, but the life that amazes Jesus never forgets that we can't earn the grace that Jesus so freely gives.
2. **It's a life anchored by truth:** This centurion knew that Jesus had the ability to heal his servant, and even believed that all it would take was one word. No visit was necessary, because he had anchored his hope (and his servant's healing) in a word from Jesus. It's no different for us. If we want to live a life that amazes Jesus, then we need to be convinced of and anchored in the power of the Word.
3. **It's a life submitted to authority:** The centurion didn't just say (in so many words), "I believe you have the ability to do this," but went on to say that he recognized that Jesus had the AUTHORITY to do this. That makes all the difference! Many people have ability but they don't have authority, and since Jesus has both, we would be smart to align our lives with the authoritative word that he has spoken (which, for us, is the Bible!). It's one thing to say his word is powerful (and it is); it's another thing to say his word has authority over our lives (it needs to). The life that amazes Jesus aligns itself with his authority.

Discuss

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

- What takeaway – if any – did you have from the message this week?
- When we think of the 3 characteristics of the life that amazes Jesus (oriented around grace, anchored in truth, submitted to authority), which one stands out to you? Explain your answer.
- Have you ever tried to convince Jesus to do something based on your works? Why is that such an easy trap to fall into? What does Galatians 3:1-5 say about it?
- Discuss the difference between ABILITY and AUTHORITY. Can you think of times when someone might have one without the other? How much more trustworthy is Jesus if he has both?
- Have you ever met someone like the centurion who was fully anchored in and submitted to the authority of God's word? How would you describe that person's life? Faith?
- What keeps us from fully submitting to the authority of Jesus in every area of our lives? What awaits us when we do? React to this quote from Elisabeth Elliot: "Until the will and the affections are brought under the authority of Christ, we have not begun to understand, let alone to accept, His lordship."
- Read John 5:30; 8:28; Luke 22:42. What can we observe about the way Jesus submitted to authority? How can we apply what we observed to our lives?