

Small Group Guide: Filled with Awe

Key Takeaways:

1. Awe is a powerful emotion that can transform our perspective on God, ourselves, and the world around us.
2. Paul's letter to the Ephesians demonstrates what it looks like to be in awe of Jesus and His plan.
3. The church is God's trophy, evidence that His plan worked and He won.
4. Cynicism, familiarity, and distraction can hinder our ability to experience awe.
5. Experiencing awe can lead to humility, a changed perspective, and shifted priorities.

Discussion Questions:

1. What experiences in your life have filled you with awe? How did those moments impact you?
2. Paul interrupts himself in Ephesians 3:1 because he's overwhelmed with awe. Have you ever had a similar experience where you were stopped in your tracks by God's goodness or plan?
3. The sermon mentions that the church is God's "trophy" or "flex." How does this perspective change the way you view your role in the church?
4. Which of the three barriers to awe (cynicism, familiarity, or distraction) do you struggle with most? Why?
5. How has your perspective on difficult circumstances changed (or not changed) as you've grown in your faith?
6. The sermon suggests that awe begins where self ends. What are some practical ways we can shift our focus off ourselves and onto God?
7. How does understanding the diversity of the global church impact your view of Christianity?

Practical Applications:

1. Schedule "awe time" this week: Set aside 15-30 minutes to think about Jesus, reflect on God's plan, and read scripture.
2. Go on an "awe walk" in nature: Take a walk outside, paying attention to the beauty of creation and allowing it to inspire awe towards the Creator.
3. Practice humility: Choose one day this week to consciously think of yourself less and focus more on God and others.
4. Engage with beauty: Listen to a piece of music, view a work of art, or read a poem that inspires awe in you. Reflect on how it points you towards God.

5. Share your awe: In your next gathering with friends or family, share a story of something that has recently filled you with awe and how it impacted you.
6. Pray for fresh eyes: Ask God to help you see familiar aspects of your faith (like church attendance or Bible reading) with renewed awe and appreciation.
7. Serve others: Look for an opportunity to serve in your church or community as a way of participating in God's "trophy" and plan.

10-12-25 Small Group Guide and Study Questions

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