

Life Group Lesson

SUPERNATURAL • Week of October 9

Introduction

Think about the different creatures that have walked planet earth – dinosaurs, Behemoth (Job 40:15-24), Leviathan (Job 41:1,31). The Bible speaks of some of these creatures. Perhaps there are sea creatures living in the great depths of the ocean that the human eye has yet to see.

Think about remarkable human beings who have walked the earth. We read about when giant Nephilim lived on earth (Genesis 6:4) and men of supernatural strength like Nimrod, who was the first heroic warrior on earth—“Since he was the greatest hunter in the world, his name became proverbial (see Genesis 10:8-12). What about ordinary men, like Noah, who walked the earth? In his natural ordinary life, God asked him to build an ark, something no one had ever seen. Rain had not been seen yet. Yet, Noah was faithful and the Bible speaks of Noah favorably because he obeyed the Lord (Genesis 6:8-9). God-pleasers are all through the Scriptures.

Abraham left to follow the promise of God, trusting God for a son when he and his barren wife were too old to have children. Joseph is called by Pharaoh to interpret recurring nightmares and shares how God wants Pharaoh to know what is about to happen. Moses, at eighty years old, returns to Egypt to speak God’s words of impending judgment and deliver God’s people. Ruth chooses to live with her mother-in-law Naomi after the death of their husbands, and pleases God by choosing to be part of God’s people. A young shepherd boy, David, faces the Philistine giant and in the name of the God of Israel, brings the enemy down. After the exile, Nehemiah, in the face of relentless opposition by enemies of the Jews, rebuilds the wall of Jerusalem in a remarkable fifty-two days. Later, Esther tells Mordecai to call for a fast; she lays her life on the line to save her people. These God-pleasers were ordinary people, but because of their faith, the supernatural became natural for them.

Background

The apostle Paul was a God-pleaser. This former persecutor of Christ’s church now shares the Gospel message of Christ. Because of the trans-

forming power of Christ, he avails himself to whatever Christ calls him to do. Paul is willing to suffer persecution for the name of the One who met him on the road to Damascus and changed the course of his life. Paul writes the church in Thessalonica, encouraging them to live for God’s approval, not man’s. When natural, ordinary people believe God to move, God shows up. Are you willing to trust God? Are you willing to press into His call over your life regardless of the threats and opposition? If so, then get ready – because expecting the supernatural is about to become natural for you.

Reading the Text

Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

1. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?
2. What are you going to do about it?
3. How can we help you?

Reflection

It is natural for devoted followers to preach the transforming Gospel of Christ. Perhaps many of us do not consider ourselves ‘preachers’ and yet, we are all called to simply share our story. What supernatural work has the Lord Jesus done in your life? Are you willing to point others to God, to His love, favor and forgiveness? In his letter, Peter says: “And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it” (see 1 Peter 3:15-16). Live to please God and not people. Put the Lord first in the midst of challenges and pressures. Paul says, “For we speak as messengers approved by God to be entrusted with the Good News. Our purpose is to please God, not people. He alone examines the motives of our hearts. Never once did we try to win you with flattery, as you well know. And God is our witness that we were not pretending to be your

friends just to get your money! As for human praise, we have never sought it from you or anyone else” (1 Thessalonians 2:4-6).

In Closing

As you begin to pray for others, Christ helps you see them through His eyes; He will give you the same compassion that He has for them. Get grit-determined to love them (even the difficult people) into the arms of Jesus by living sacrificially. Living sacrificially means you are willing for ‘life as you know it’ to be interrupted. Living sacrificially means allowing the Lord to take you deeper than merely serving (when you put in ‘your time’ and go home). Serving is good and necessary; but making yourself available for God to use means that *you* become an instrument of His healing, *you* make room in your calendar, *you* trust God with ‘his’ money – you will begin to see the miraculous. You will become like one of our heroes of faith – a God-pleaser. Jesus said, the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. The leaders are even fewer. To please God, you must know who you are and what God has called you to do. Live into God’s call – live to please the Lord and not people. Then you will be a true blessing to those around you.

⁵ It was by faith that Enoch was taken up to heaven without dying—“he disappeared, because God took him.” For before he was taken up, he was known as a person who pleased God. ⁶ And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him. Hebrews 11:5-6

Close in a Time of Prayer asking:

How can I pray for my fellow Life Group participants this week?

One Year Bible Readings

October 9: Jeremiah 12:1-14:10, 1 Thessalonians 1:1-2:8, Ps. 79:1-13, Prov. 24:30-34
October 10: Jeremiah 14:11-16:15, 1 Thessalonians 2:9-3:13, Ps. 80:1-19, Prov. 25:1-5
October 11: Jeremiah 16:16-18:23, 1 Thessalonians 4:1-5:3, Ps. 81:1-16, Prov. 25:6-8
October 12: Jeremiah 19:1-21:14, 1 Thessalonians 5:4-28, Psalm 82:1-8, Prov. 25:9-10
October 13: Jeremiah 22:1-23:20, 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12, Ps. 83:1-18, Prov. 25:11-14
October 14: Jeremiah 23:21-25:38, 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17, Psalm 84:1-12, Prov. 25:15
October 15: Jeremiah 26:1-27:22, 2 Thessalonians 3:1-18, Psalm 85:1-13, Prov. 25:16

SUPER NATURAL

Text: Genesis 5: 22-24, Genesis 6:1-8,
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8, Hebrews 11:5-6

Plain Truth:

By _____, God pleasers _____ God’s face
and the _____ of this world are revealed.

Devoted followers of Jesus live naturally to do this:

1. _____ to the transforming _____ of Christ.
2. Remove the _____ by _____ God and not _____.
3. Live _____, pointing people to _____ and not _____ as would be friends with _____.
4. Grit determined to _____ into the arms of Jesus by living _____.

October 9, 2022