

Life Group Lesson

SUPERNATURAL • Week of October 2

Introduction

In the opening session of the Global Leadership Summit (GLS) '22, Pastor Craig Groeschel said there always seems to be an 'it' factor that brings life and a certain draw to growing, thriving organizations. Some have 'it' while others don't. What makes a leader (an everyday individual) magnetic – even in the midst of great demands and intense growing pains? Greatness is found in the extremes. For example, Jesus is Alpha and Omega; the Lion and the Lamb; fully God and fully Man. Pastor Groeschel challenged GLS listeners to 'grow in their extremes' as a leader. Notice below, other examples of the paradox of great leaders (*who have 'it'*) –

Confident	-	Humble
Driven	-	Healthy
Focused	-	Flexible
Optimistic	-	Realistic
Direct	-	Kind
Empowering	-	Controlling
Urgent	-	Patient
Frugal	-	Abundant

How can we grow into our extremes as individuals, as leaders (and yes, we are all leaders)—Where do you see yourself? The essence of great leadership is choosing what *not* to do. If you are a follower of Christ, you are called to be on mission. Is the over-arching goal of each day (your focus and devotion, where you *choose* to spend your energies) on your Lord and Savior? The greatest enemy of success is not a lack of opportunities but a lack of focus. We often miss the supernatural work of God around us because we are not looking for God or listening for His voice. Not listening is a good indication that we do not expect the Lord to move. We say we want the Holy Spirit to move, but perhaps, if we are honest, we *really* don't want the Holy Spirit to move because if He does, He may move us into the unknown; and we are scared. We would rather simply live the 'known' routine. It's a paradox.

Background

Think about the paradox of our heroes of faith – Abraham and Sarah: old, yet promised a child through whom salvation would come to the world, descendants as numerous as the stars; there is Joseph: sold into slavery by his brothers, yet

able to forgive and eventually saves his family (and the world!) from a severe famine as prime minister of Egypt; Moses: a Hebrew baby boy, who was supposed to be drowned in the Nile River per Pharaoh's order, yet placed in a basket in the river where Pharaoh's daughter finds him and raises him as her own; the shepherd boy David: least of his brothers and dismissed by his father, yet chosen by God to shepherd God's people Israel. The 'it' that breathes life into the paradox of each of these individuals (and countless others) is not an 'it' at all – it is the LORD God Himself! God can turn around any impossible circumstance and bring our good and His glory out of it (see Genesis 50:20, Isaiah 46:10, Romans 8:28, Ephesians 1:11).

Paul in his former life, persecuted the church and imprisoned followers of The Way. Now, he is “a prisoner of Christ Jesus for the benefit of you Gentiles...” (Ephesians 3:1). It is a paradox that the Paul was charged to preach a message of setting people free, while he was in chains; a paradox that he wrote four different letters (epistles) about life-change and hope from a prison cell. Paul earnestly shared the Good News with all who would listen. He sees hardship as an opportunity to serve Christ. As you allow the Holy Spirit to fill you, to guide and direct your life – will you listen? Will you stay focused on God's call over your life? The Holy Spirit *through you* will draw others to the life-giving magnetism of Christ. Serving Christ is a privilege; your everyday life can be on-mission for Christ and filled with ministry opportunities. Paul says –

“By God's grace and mighty power, I have been given the privilege of serving Him by spreading this Good News. Though I am the least deserving of all God's people, He graciously gave me the privilege of telling the Gentiles about the endless treasures available to them in Christ” (Ephesians 3:7-8).

Reading the Text

Read Ephesians 3:1-21

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

Life is full of paradoxes. Remember when we could hardly wait to get old enough to ride our bike? But once we reached that age, we also had more chores to do, more work to do around the house to help out. We then looked forward to teenage years, when we could drive, hang out with friends, and have some ‘grown-up’ independence; but again, we reached that age and realized we were going to have to spend time studying harder, working part-time, and running errands for mom and dad. Before long, many of us longed to find that right person and get married. We made it to that long-awaited moment, only to be faced with full-time employment, bills, and greater demands than we could ever have imagined, not to mention children. How do we live (and lead our family) into a beautiful *supernatural* relationship with God—a personal friendship with the Lord—in the throes of life?

In Closing

Keep your eyes on Christ. Toward the end of his opening address, Pastor Groeschel confessed how along the way, as Life Church grew exponentially, he had started to worry more about what people thought of him than what God thought of him. He said one day he realized he had become ‘full-time pastor and part-time follower of Christ’ – convicting words for all of us. How many times have we begun to flounder simply because we have taken our eyes off God’s call, God’s purpose over our lives? Jesus said, “Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need” (Matthew 6:33). Life is full of paradoxes; but let us praise God for choosing us to share the riches of His greatness. God is able.

“Now all glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. Glory to Him in the church and in Christ Jesus through all generations forever and ever! Amen” (Ephesians 3:20-21).

Close in a Time of Prayer asking:

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

One Year Bible Readings

October 2: Isaiah 66:1-24, Philippians 3:4-21, Psalm 74:1-23, Proverbs 24:15-16
October 3: Jeremiah 1:1-2:30, Philippians 4:1-23, Psalm 75:1-10, Proverbs 24:17-20
October 4: Jeremiah 2:31-4:18, Colossians 1:1-17, Psalm 76:1-12, Proverbs 24:21-22
October 5: Jeremiah 4:19-6:15, Colossians 1:18-2:7, Psalm 77:1-20, Proverbs 24:23-25
October 6: Jeremiah 6:16-8:7, Colossians 2:8-23, Psalm 78:1-31, Proverbs 24:26
October 7: Jeremiah 8:8-9:26, Colossians 3:1-17, Psalm 78:32-55, Proverbs 24:27
October 8: Jeremiah 10:1-11:23, Colossians 3:18-4:18, Psalm 78:56-72, Prov. 24:28-29

SUPER NATURAL

Text: Ephesians 3:1-21

Plain Truth:

The Holy Spirit meets us in the _____
of life with _____ love.

1. We, who are spiritual _____ due to _____, have been _____ into God’s _____ due to Jesus.
2. The least _____ becomes the one who has the _____ to _____.
3. The church often _____ among men is God’s divine _____ to _____ humanity.
4. The Cross is _____ among culture because it _____ us of _____ which keeps us from God.
5. The supernatural _____ of love...
 - a. It’s _____ when prejudice is _____.
 - b. It’s _____ when bitterness is _____.
 - c. It’s _____ when judgment is _____.
 - d. It’s _____ enough to reach your _____.
 - e. When faith is _____, God’s love brings _____.

October 2, 2022