

PRAYER THAT AMAZES JESUS

EPHESIANS 3:20-21 CHURCH GROUP SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE – JANUARY 25, 2026

SCRIPTURE READING

Ephesians 3:14-21 (ESV)

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, 16 that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, 17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, 19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

20 Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, 21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

ICE BREAKER QUESTION

What was the most amazing display of power that you ever witnessed and how did you react to it?

SERMON RECAP

Jesus is amazed by great faith (Matthew 8:5-10) and He is amazed by lack of faith (Mark 6:5-6).

- There's only One who is able, who has the power to do much more than everything!
- God, Our Father, delights in giving good things to those who ask Him!
- As we ask God in prayer, we go to him with boldness and shamelessness because God delights in giving to those who are bold enough to 'bother' (in the positive sense) Him – God wants to be 'bothered' by the things that are heavy on our hearts.
- There is nothing too small and there is nothing too great that we cannot ask God in prayer.
- There is power within us that energizes and fuels us that comes from the ability/power of God to do for us far more abundantly than we can ask or think through His ability/His power that is at work in us.
- God delights in bringing those who love Him the fullness of joy forever and ever!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Observation: What does this passage say?

1. Read Ephesians 3:20-21 aloud as a group. Let group members share observations. Try not to move into interpretation of the passage or application of what you read quite yet. Simply share what you observe.
 - What does verse 20 suggest that God is able to do?
 - How does Jesus work for us in verse 20?
 - What is the result of what God does according to verse 21?
 - How would you summarize Ephesians 3:20-21?

Interpretation: What does the passage mean?

1. Read Matthew 8:5-10 and Mark 6:5-6
 - How does the Centurion approach Jesus?
 - How does the Centurion understand Jesus more than most?
 - How is the Centurion's faith greater than most?
 - How does the unbelief (faith) in Jesus' hometown strike Jesus and impact the Nazarenes?
 - Does great faith lead to amazement or amazement to great faith? Explain.
2. Read Matthew 8:9, Mark 6:5, and Matthew 7:7-11

- The Greek word for able is dunamai, which means power. How does ability relate to power?
- How is Jesus able to do what He has the ability to do?
- How does God's power and ability differ from human power and ability?
- Why does God want us to ask Him for what we need?
- How does asking God for what we need relate to our faith, to our ability, and to our human power?

3. Read Luke 11:5-8 and Psalm 16:11

- Why does God delight when we 'bother' Him with our prayers?
- How does "fullness of joy" manifest when we are in God's presence?
- How will God be glorified in the church, and in Christ Jesus forever and ever?

Application: How can we apply this passage to our lives?

1. Our God is amazing!
 - How can you have the faith of the Centurion?
 - How can you guard against a lack of faith as exhibited in Nazareth?
 - How does your faith strike Jesus – is He amazed by its strength or is it lackluster and unimpressive?
 - How can your Church Group fuel your amazement for Jesus and His amazement for you?
2. Our God is able and powerful!
 - In a typical day, how often do you rely on God's ability and power?
 - Where might you be usurping God's power and ability by asserting your own?
 - How does your prayer life illustrate your faith?
 - How can your Church Group help you to rely on Jesus more?
3. Our God is worthy of prayer, praise, and glory!
 - How would you characterize your prayer life at the start of 21 Days of Prayer and today?
 - What is the primary focus of your prayer – how can you get more of the "fullness of God"?
 - How is God glorified by your prayer life – how are you listening to hear His Word?
 - How can your Church Group pray with you to praise and glorify God?
4. Our God is unlimited when we ask!
 - What would amazing faith lead you to ask for in your life?
 - What would amazing faith lead you to ask for in your family?
 - What would amazing faith lead us to ask for in our church?
 - What would amazing faith lead us to ask for in the world?