



LIMITLESS

SESSIONS 1-3

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Limitless focuses our attention onto some of the greatest promise that we have received as followers of Jesus. We are reminded that it is not all about us but about Jesus living in us and working through us. As followers of Jesus, we are commanded to shift our focus away from ourselves, our challenges and circumstances, and onto God and His limitless resources. We want everyone to know who this God is and what He has promised. We want you to experience the reality of these promises in everyday life. And we want to encourage you to live in the fullness of God's provision.

Greater Th>n

To Begin

If you could do your dream job ten years from now, what would it be?

Digging Deeper

Have you ever asked yourself any of these questions, "If God lives in me and is greater, why do I feel so fragile at times? How can I discover His strength in my life? What would be different if I could rely on Him more?" In this session we will be learning about the Spirit who lives in us and the role He plays in our lives.

- What stood out to you the most from this past weekend?

Together, read 1 John 4:1-6.

In the 1 John 3, John reminds us that as children of God, we do not need to fear the spirit of this world, because we have the indwelling Spirit of God. Yes, we need to be aware, but the spirit

of this world doesn't have to bring fear in our lives. The indwelling Spirit that lives in those who follow Jesus is greater than the spirit who is in the world.

In 1 John 4, the John moves on to address the issue of false prophets. John describes that if a person does not acknowledge the truth about Jesus and what Jesus has done, this person has the spirit of the Antichrist. John cautions his readers not to believe everyone who claims to be led by the Spirit, but to test them.

- How do we know if someone is a false prophet? How can we guard ourselves from false teachings?
- Have you ever heard of the word "antichrist" and what do you think it means? How can one recognize "the spirit of the Antichrist"?

In verse 4, we are reminded of this wonderful truth: we win because of the Spirit who lives in us. **Take some time and re-read 1 John 4:4, maybe use a few different translations.** Read it slowly and share what words or phrases stand out to you. Share any insight.

- How will the Holy Spirit's indwelling help us recognize these false teachings?
- How can a Christian develop biblical discernment?
- Knowing that the Holy Spirit is in us, how does this impact your life?

The believer has a resource for victory, the vital presence of the indwelling Jesus, which makes victory always possible. We need to learn to rely on He who is in us instead of our own abilities. Those walking in this truth, victory is assured. The follower of Jesus has no place for fear. We have many spiritual enemies, but

not one of them is greater than Jesus who lives in us.

- What does the promise in verse 4 mean to you? How have you experienced this truth in your life?

In verse 5 we learn that the people who live in the world only understand the world's way. Those who are of the world are evident because they speak as of the world.

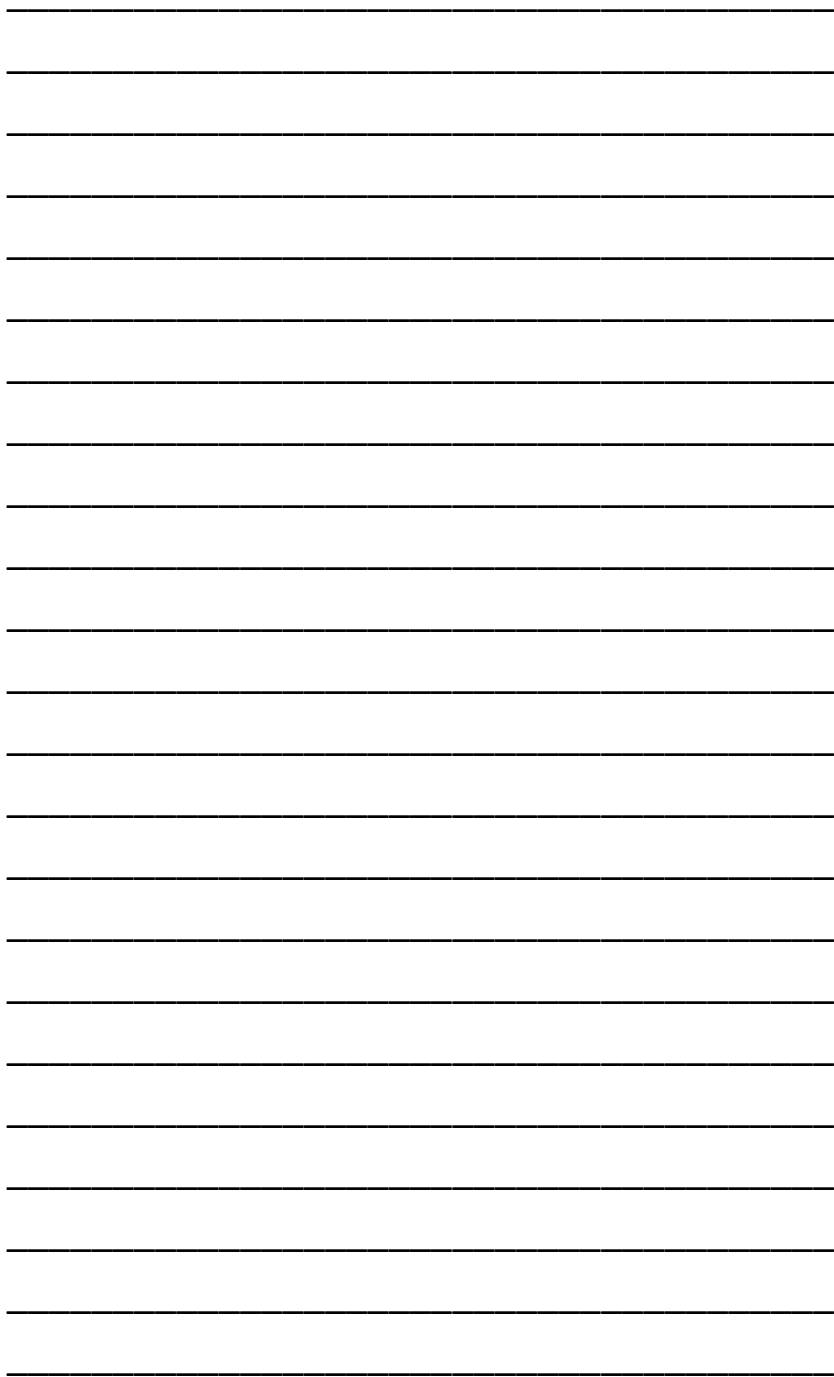
- What does it mean to speak from the viewpoint of the world? As followers of Jesus, how is our speech different from the world?

Some can consider John's statement in verse 6 arrogant: we are from God and they are not.

- How does this statement affect you? How can John make this claim?
- Read 1 John 3:1. How does our scripture relate to 1 John 3:1?
- What truths will you apply to your life this week?

Praise & Prayer Points

Pray for each other's prayer requests and share what God is doing in your life.



Unstoppable

To Begin

If you suddenly received \$100,000, how would you spend it?

Digging Deeper

Sometimes in church we feel like we are getting nowhere. And in some places the followers of Jesus are in real danger. How can it be that Jesus says we are unstoppable? In this session, we are looking at Peter's confession of Jesus as the Christ.

- What stood out to you from this past weekend? Any thoughts?

Together read Matthew 16:13-20

Peter is the first apostle, the first one who makes this declaration of Christ's identity, and he is the apostle upon whom much of the church's foundation would be built beginning in Acts 2.

- What's important about Peter's confession?
- When and how did you come to recognize Jesus as your Messiah?

In verse 18 we see the first mention of the word "church"—ekklesia in the original language—and it comes from Jesus, who is often described as the Head of the church. Jesus uses this word to refer to an assembly of those who follow Him, Christ-followers.

Take some time and re-read Matthew 16:18, maybe use a few different translations. Read it slowly and share what words or phrases stand out to you. Share any insight

- What truth can we pull from this verse?

- What does it mean for you to be a part of the church?

Paul says in Ephesians 2:20 that the church is built on the foundation of all the apostles.

As the church proclaims the gospel of Christ, Jesus says that the powers of hell will not conquer it. The NIV version uses the phrase “gates of hades”, is a Jewish idiom for the powers of death. Not even death has power over the Messiah. Jesus rose from the dead and conquered death on the cross. Nothing will stop the message of Christ from moving in our world. Nothing in this world will stop Jesus or His message and we know this because Christ has given us His authority.

- Why is it important for us to understand that the powers of hell will not conquer the church? Should this effect the way we live?

J. C. Ryle said, “Nothing can altogether overthrow and destroy [the church]. Its members may be persecuted, oppressed, imprisoned, beaten, beheaded, burned. But the true Church is never altogether extinguished: it rises again from its afflictions; it lives on through fire and water. When crushed in one land, it springs up in another. The Pharaohs, the Herods, the Neros . . . have laboured in vain to put down this Church. They slay their thousands, and then pass away and go to their own place. The true Church outlives them all, and sees them buried each in his turn. [The Church] is an anvil that has broken many a hammer in this world, and will break many a hammer still. [The Church] is a bush which is often burning, and yet is not consumed.” (Ryle, Principles for Churchmen, 118)

- What stands out to you from this quote from J.C. Ryle?

- What truths will you apply to your life this week?
- Praise & Prayer Points**

Praise & Prayer Points

Pray for each other's prayer requests and share what God is doing in your life.

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Wind & Fire

To Begin

What comes to your mind when you hear the words, “the Holy Spirit”?

Digging Deeper

Do you ever feel as though you hardly know anything about the Bible, as though everyone seems to know more than you? Just how will the Holy Spirit teach us and what do we need to know? In this session, we will be looking what it means to live under the guidance and direction of the Holy Spirit.

- What stood out to you from this past weekend? Any thoughts?

Together, read John 14:15-31.

As Jesus teaches his disciples, it’s important to remember that John 14 comes before his betrayal, arrest, and his crucifixion. Jesus shares with them the important truths of who he is, the great work that they will do, and the help that he will give to them.

We must believe that God will help us accomplish what He needs us to do. In everything that we do, we seek God’s will to be done here on earth and to glorify Him.

- If someone were to look at your life, would they know that you love Jesus? What other promise does Jesus make to the disciples and to those who keep his commandments?
- The word “helper” can also be translated “advocate.” What does an advocate do? Why is it important that we need an advocate?

- What do we know about the Holy Spirit? What are some of his attributes? (Read Psalm 139:7-10; Luke 1:35-37; Isaiah 40:13-14; Hebrews 9:14).

The Holy Spirit leads into all truth and we know this because he lives in us. The Holy Spirit will teach us and guide us to become more like Jesus. Those who are led by the Holy Spirit are children of God and God is our Father! The Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness and gives us words to pray even when we cannot express our own words. We are identified as His own by God placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts. When we receive the Holy Spirit, he will guide us into all truth and will give us peace of mind and heart.

- Where does Jesus say the Holy Spirit will live? How is this different than where the Holy Spirit has lived in the past?
- What does the Holy Spirit specifically do to help the disciples take the Gospel message forward?
- What does Holy Spirit living look like today? How can we learn to listen and obey the Holy Spirit on a daily basis?
- What can you do to help those around you come to love and follow Jesus so they will have the promise of the Holy Spirit to help them live their life?

Jesus knows that his time with the disciples was coming to an end, but he will not leave them alone. Just as Jesus has left the Holy Spirit to help them, we can be assured that the Holy Spirit is here to help us. The gift of the Holy Spirit is vital to every Christian because we need him to help us live the life God has called us to live.

If you follow Jesus and have committed your life to him, you have the spirit of the living Christ in you. Take a moment and

thank God for his Holy Spirit that He has given to help you. Thank God for the strength, peace, comfort, and leading that the Holy Spirit provides in your life.

For those who haven't yet received or experienced the Holy Spirit, take some time to pray for each other.

- What truths will you apply to your life this week?

Praise & Prayer Points

Pray for each other's prayer requests and share what God is doing in your life.

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a christian & missionary alliance church