



A 4-week small group that teaches you how to LIVE life as a Jesus Follower, establishing a relationship with Jesus and learn daily habits that will keep you in Christ and help you grow. Each week will cover a different topic and its very important that you attend each week.



If you are a mature and seasoned believer you can start here! Discover Awaken is a two-week small group to help you learn more about the mission and vision of Awaken Las Vegas to find your place to serve and grow in this community.

awakenlv.org/signup

THE GOSPEL-CENTERED LIFE

DON'T PUT GOD IN A BOX EPHESIANS 3:20-21

WEEK 12

**Your life isn't about what you can do
It's about what God can do through you.**

Imagine that as I'm teaching this message from the pulpit, I have a box next to me on the stage. That box can serve a variety of purposes. For the most part, we use boxes to store, protect, hide, and carry things of value. Sometimes, we conceal gifts in them. Some things belong in boxes, such as shoes, books, kitchen supplies, and even a puppy we might bring home to our family. One thing that doesn't belong in a box is God. In the Bible, God constantly proves to His people that He is bigger than the box they put Him in. Bigger than the box at Pi-HaHiroth, where the Israelites thought they were doomed with the Red Sea in front of them and Pharaoh's army behind them. Bigger than the box at the Valley of Elah when Saul and the Israelites were shaking before the Philistines and their giant Goliath. And bigger than the box the disciples placed Him in at Calvary when the stone was rolled over the tomb, and the cold body of Jesus seemed to be the final word. But it wasn't the final word because a tomb can't hold him down, nor can the box you place Him in. Stop fitting God into the plan you have for your life and start fitting your life into the God who has a plan for your life. Let God be God. And when you do, prepare for Him to do the miraculous.

(10 min) OPENING PRAYER

Pray that God will permeate your time with His presence. Ask God to break down the box and limitations you have been putting on Him..

(25 min) TIME TO CONSIDER

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through this week's lesson, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

1. Spend time praying and asking God how you have put Him in a box. Be specific in identifying the ways that you have been limiting God. What does it mean to let God be God in your life? How are you going to do that?

Your praying and planning aren't supposed to give God the guidelines He can work in.

2. Remember, the demonstration of God's power (which, according to Paul, is already at work in you) is for His glory. That means **everything** in your life has the potential to be a display of the awesome power of God. Derek gave four steps to see this happen: **pray** and ask God to demonstrate His power, **plan** and think through How you can be in alignment with God's purposes, **place** all your expectations and hopes in His hands, and **press** through until you see the answer. What things do you need to do that with right now?

Anchor Yourself To These Verses:

Jeremiah 32:17 "Ah, Lord GOD! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you."

Job 42:2 "I know that you can do all things, and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted."

Mark 9:23 "If you can! All things are possible for one who believes."

Matthew 17:20 "For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."

WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSES: *Ephesians 3:20-21* "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, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."

EXPERIENCING THE SPIRIT TOGETHER: Spend time as a life group praying and discussing the key things that emerge from your discussion of this week's questions. Spend time confessing how you have limited God. Encourage and pray for one another. Choose faith and trust in God. Anchor yourself to the promises He has given in these verses, and don't let them go.

(5 min) LIVE IT

Be intentional about centering each day this week around the presence of Christ in your life. Begin each day in prayer and dedicate daily time to reading Scripture. Choose to live Ephesians 3:20-21. Begin your day by praying these verses over your life and walk in faith, believing God for faithful demonstrations of His power. Give all the glory to Him when He moves!