# FULL ACCESS



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#### **WELCOME TO OUR 2021 THEME:**

## FULL ACCESS

Together, right across New Zealand, we are going to lean in and learn over the month of February. We are going to look at what it means to have full access to God, full access to His promises, and full access to everything He has for us.

We can know about the Kingdom of God but very few know how to access the Kingdom of God. When we understand our position in Christ, we can walk in our authority and walk in what He has made available to us.

Our prayer is that you grow in that understanding. Our desire for you over the next 4 weeks is that your eyes are opened for the first time, or again, to all that Christ has ALREADY achieved for you through the cross. That you will find and experience the freedom and fullness of God... and as you grasp that at another level, it will put a boldness in you to take risks and courageously advance in 2021.

To get the most out of this study, can we encourage you to get involved in an eGroup this month, engage in the daily readings and journal as you go, attend church each Sunday across

February to hear the Word preached, and pray fervently for a significant year for us all

- individually and collectively – as we boldly access all He has laid out for us.

We are praying for you.

Blessings, Ps Sam and Kathy Monk



## GOOD-TO-KNOW INFO ABOUT EGROUP

We encourage everyone in Equippers to get involved in an eGroup. If you are not already involved in one, can we urge you to give it a go over the month of February. If you are already a part of one, maybe you could look for ways that you can lean in at another level this month (or possibly even start leading one yourself!)

Our walk with God is tricky to navigate on our own. eGroups exist as a place of connection and encouragement to give us strength no matter how long we have been on our faith journey. It's a group of friends, a community to belong to, gathering to challenge one another to go higher in God.

In the New Testament we see how the early church worshiped in the temple, but personal ministry happened "house to house".

Acts 20:20 - "You know that I have not hesitated to preach anything that would be helpful to you but have taught you publicly and from house to house."

Coming together for connection in our homes, beyond weekend church services, is vital in our development as believers for these reasons...

It's the best kind of reality check. When we get together for eGroup it provides a much-needed opportunity to navigate the complexities, confusion, and chaos of life with others. In a world where it seems on the surface that everyone is doing okay and succeeding, eGroup reminds us that everyone has their disappointments, pain points, and are in need of encouragement from others just like you.

It's a safe place for your hopes and fears. Being active in an eGroup helps us to cultivate genuine, authentic relationships. It is an arena for you to begin to know others... and to be known by others.

It's a family for when you need others. It provides us with the relationships that give us the kind of support we don't know we need until we need it.

It's a place to grow. In Equippers we are committed to challenging one another to go higher in God. The perspective and encouragement that will come from those in your eGroup will spur you on to love and good works, You will lean into the mission together. You will have opportunities to share your faith. You will grow in confidence.

You will gain wisdom in navigating your sphere of influence.

It will also be a great space to discuss what you learn about FULL ACCESS over the course of this month.

Here is how you can be the best participator in eGroup:

- Just start and be patient. The most difficult part of experiencing the benefits of being part of an eGroup is just starting. Authentic community takes time. Be patient with yourself. Be patient with others.
- 2) Attend consistently. Good habits lead to growth. Guard your weekly eGroup time from the countless other things that could interfere with it, because there definitely will be times when you won't feel like going but will be thankful you pushed through and went.
- 3) Contribute to the discussion. A healthy group environment requires sincerity and transparency. Sharing your experiences and perspective is valued and needed!
- 4) Pray for Your eGroup. One of the most powerful things you can do for the people in your eGroup is to pray for them consistently. Pray for the health of your eGroup. Pray for your eGroup members and leaders in your eGroup. We believe that, as we pray, our eGroups will remain healthy and continue to grow.

Have fun, enjoy some great food together, and have an incredible start to your year in eGroup!

My eGroup meets:	
,	
eGroup leader:	

# WEEK 01 EGROUP STUDY: LEVELS

CONNECT

Spend time connecting with each other.

**KEY THOUGHT** 

When we come into the Kingdom we partner with God and become inheritors of everything. It is important we grow in our understanding of what has been made available to us. We have each been given an all access pass – access to healing, provision, freedom, the call of God and more. Some people haven't been given more access than others. We all have the same access, we just have to activate it. There are no levels to the access we have, but there are levels of discipleship. We are going to learn this week about how our access as a believer stems from our relationship in Jesus.

WATCH

Watch 'Week 01' of the series at egroups.equipperschurch.com

**KEY VERSE** 

Hebrews 4:14-16 – "Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are - yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

We are covered by His blood, therefore that gives us full access into His presence. We are to come to Him freely, constantly, ceaselessly, and persistently.

Q1

What can we approach God with confidence for? What do we gain access to when we become a believer?

STUDY

#### Read Galatians 4:1-7

"Now I say that the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father. Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ."

This passage reminds us that we are no longer slaves but heirs to everything God has. We are inheritors of everything.

Before we gave our hearts to Jesus we were slaves to sin. We are no longer slaves but if we have a child mindset we are no different to a slave. We don't know what is available and we don't walk and grow in it.

Q2 What does it mean to be a slave versus what does it mean to be an heir?

Q3 When you reflect on your past, were there some things that kept you in bondage as a

slave? Was it achievements, failures, status, possessions?

Q4 We understand that we have access to heaven, but what does that mean for our here

and now? How should the position of heir affect your life?

A whole lot has been made available to us but often we are not downloading or accessing it.

Q5 What is obstructing you from accessing what God has on offer? Where have you been limited or lacking in your perspective?

COMMIT What could you do practically this week to access all that has been made available to you?

**PRAY** 

**PRACTICAL** 

Pray that you will grow in your understanding of what it means to be an heir of God this week. That God will open your eyes to see and understand what has been made available to you.

Share with another member of your eGroup an area where you felt challenged from today's topic, and make a commitment to encourage each other this week as you decide to make a change in that area.

# WE ALL HAVE THE SAME ACCESS



WE JUST HAVE TO ACTIVATE IT

### **MONDAY1**

## ALL THE FULLNESS

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#### Read Ephesians 3:16-21

"I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us."

There is a challenge we all face in following Christ. Often we start out strong with a passion to live for Christ but sometimes, over time, we can find ourselves running on empty. We keep living for God, serving God, showing up at church, doing what we know we need to do - but the joy of it, the satisfaction and love of passionately pursuing Christ, and the abundant life He promised can feel further away.

The answer, we think, is simple. We just need to try harder, live better, and do more. All the while, we continue to feel defeated, worn out and discouraged. We become frustrated that we are just not getting it, not realising we have access to it already.

Or maybe we have just settled into the level we are living at spiritually and have become comfortable there. It is time to break the cycles of normality and the business-as-usual routines through which we walk daily. We can be thankful for all He has done, all the while understanding that He has so much more for us! Now is the time to choose to access all He has made available.

Our desire is that this month you will find and experience the freedom and fullness of God... and as you grasp that at another level, it will put a boldness in you to take risks and courageously advance in 2021.

### TUESDAY2



#### Read Matthew 16:16-20 (MSG)

"And that's not all. You will have complete and free access to God's kingdom, keys to open any and every door: no more barriers between heaven and earth, earth and heaven. A yes on earth is yes in heaven. A no on earth is no in heaven."

There is nothing more frustrating than needing to get in a door, but finding it locked and the key nowhere to be found. If you are feeling that way, frustrated spiritually, or feeling a little stuck in how to access the promises of God – we want to remind you that the keys have been given to you.

Access = the means or opportunity to approach or enter a place.

We have the means and the opportunity to approach and enter. Jesus has done it all for us and we now have FULL ACCESS. Not just some believers, but we all have the same access. We have all been in places when we have had access denied, but in God's Kingdom, He has given each of us an 'all access' pass and He has a whole lot on offer.

We all have the same access. But we may find ourselves at different levels in our discipleship in understanding how to access it.

You do not have to fight your way in or try to wrestle your way in. In order to migrate to a new position there simply has to be a massive discomfort with the old position. We need to humble ourselves. We need to acknowledge that choosing Jesus and entering the Kingdom of God is significant - but it doesn't stop there. Once on the path to eternal life, we must have a desire to keep leaning in and learning.

## WEDNES**DAY3**

## NO LONGER SLAVES

#### Read John 15:15-16

"I do not call you slaves anymore, because a slave doesn't know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything I have heard from My Father. You did not choose Me, but I chose you."

This scripture reminds us that because we chose to put our faith in Jesus we are no longer slaves. We are now friends of God and heirs to everything He has. We are inheritors of everything and He wants to make all things known to us.

Before we gave our hearts to Jesus we were slaves to sin. We are no longer slaves but sometimes we live as if we still are. We are prone to revert to a slave mindset, trying to gain God's approval by our good works rather than believing that we already have it in Christ.

Living as slaves instead of children of God leaves us to wallow in a joyless, dutiful obedience. God becomes a master we must follow instead of the Father we love to serve. This is what breaks the heart of God.

He has created us to accomplish more and to love life more than we ever thought possible. But to live in that victory and become who God has called us to be we have to embrace who we are through Christ. When you know who you are in Christ, you know that there is nothing that can happen that will defeat you because there's nothing that can defeat Him!

### THURSDAY4

#### HEIRS

#### Read John 1:12

"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

The thing about life is that there are influences in our life that tell us who we are and make us what we are. These things shape our personal identity.

The influence could be family. The influence could be the company we work for. But the truth is, we are not any of the things that our friends, or our employers, or our upbringings have made us. We are not the sum total of all the things that have stamped themselves upon us. Simply because Jesus Christ has disarmed all of these!

You are now a child of God whose identity is known to God and guaranteed by God. Nothing will ever be able to deflect from who you are before Him.

One of the most amazing, liberating truths that the gospel declares is that God not only forgives us but He adopts us into His family. Jesus died to make us the children of God. We are given all the rights and privileged to bear God's name. We are heirs of all He has.

#### FRIDAY5

### TAKE THE LIMITS OFF

#### Read Psalm 78:41

"Yes, again and again they tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel."

This scripture talks about how the Israelites provoked God in the wilderness and limited the Holy One of God.

What it tells us is that if we are not careful, we can hinder the potential of God in our lives. God is unlimited, but we can limit the work that He desires to accomplish through us. We place many constraints on God.

We limit Him when we think we are too young. We limit Him when we think we are too old. We limit Him when we think we are not educated enough. We limit Him when we think we are not resourced enough.

If it makes you feel any better, there are many of those who went before us, who restricted their Creator. Moses, Thomas, David and the Israelites all went through times where they confined God by their perspectives, lack of trust, sin or from just being human.

The good thing is that we can always return to Him to take the limits off.

**Galatians 5:1** says "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."

## SATUR**DAY6**



#### Read Hebrews 12:1

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off **everything that hinders** and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

God wants us to live in freedom. As His people, He wants us to be unrestricted, unconstrained, unlimited. Why? Because He has a big plan for us that goes beyond ourselves.

To 'hinder' means to obstruct or get in the way of progress. So if we have things hindering us – especially in our thinking - it is stopping us from progressing, stopping us from growing and stopping us from moving forward. We need to throw those things off and pick up the victory already won for us.

It is impossible to read the New Testament without being impressed by how the early followers of Jesus lived with joyful confidence. There was no defeatism or hopelessness among the early Christ-followers. They spoke of victory, conquest, triumph, overcoming - this was the vocabulary of those first followers of Jesus Christ.

'Full Access' looks like this... before you ever face a problem, you can have boldness in knowing that you can overcome it through Christ. You live with confidence that God loves you no matter what and He will never leave you nor forsake you. The power of God is working in your life and in every situation to secure your victory. Through Christ, you aren't constantly afraid of bad news or of things that may happen that aren't in your plan. When the unexpected happens or you're disappointed, you won't be devastated by them because what limits you does not limit God.

Great things happen when you believe that something inside of you is superior to circumstance.

## SUNDAY7

## SPEAKER:

## **SERMON:**

# WEEK 02 EGROUP STUDY: POSITIONED

CONNECT Spend time connecting with each other.

KEY THOUGHT We often think about life from a positional mindset but in the Kingdom of God it has

already been done. We are already positioned. We are seated with Him in heavenly places. We are not reaching up to heaven striving to obtain everything He has for us. It is past tense. God has done already done it and we can live in it. This week we are going to learn about how to live from a place of victory, not striving to get victory.

WATCH Watch 'Week 02' of the series at **egroups.equipperschurch.com** 

KEY VERSE **Ephesians 1:3** – "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has

blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ."

Q1 Paul lets us know that we are blessed with "every blessing." He says that these blessings are "spiritual" and that they are found "in the heavenly places." What do

you think it means to have "every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places"?

STUDY Read Ephesians 2:4-7

"But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceed-

ing riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus."

By Jesus' righteous life, sacrificial death, and victorious resurrection, he has rightfully earned his place, seated on a heavenly throne at the right hand of God, where he is now. But God has chosen to give us what Jesus rightfully earned - that high status, position, seated on thrones in the heavenly presence of God. And even though our current state is still a fallen one, our eternal enjoyment of that high status is so certain

that Paul can speak of it as if we are already seated there with him.

Q2 How might you act differently if you were conscious all the time that you were seated

with Christ in heavenly places?

Q3 What parts of your life need to start adapting to the reality of your current status

with God?

In Philippians 3:7-8 Paul talks about how he views his accolades...

"But whatever were gains to me I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ."

We live in a world where you have authority based on what you have done and what you have achieved. In the Kingdom of God, we have full access, not through our achievements, but through our relationship with God. Our security is not in our achievements but in the accomplished work of Christ.

What is the difference between living for identity versus living from a place of identity?

Has there been a time in your life where you have pursued position in this world instead of being settled in who you are in Christ?

#### John 15:5

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

Our greatest position is being attached to the vine. Our attachment to Jesus and abiding in Him makes us fruitful.

What does it look like to be attached to the vine? To abide in Jesus?

What could you do practically this week to strengthen your attachment to Jesus?

Pray that you will be settled in your position in Christ. Together thank Him that you are seated with Him and that He will help you see from that perspective this week.

Share with another member of your eGroup an area where you felt challenged from today's topic, and make a commitment to encourage each other this week as you decide to make a change in that area.

Q4

Q5

Ω6

COMMIT

PRAY

**PRACTICAL** 



## **MONDAY8**

## GOD ALREADY HAS

"God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ - by grace you have been saved - and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus."

The gospel is not about "God can" or "God wants to". God already has!

Paul says in Ephesians that we are already seated with Christ in the heavenly places. That is probably a much bigger picture of your status in life than you carry around most of the time. The world pursues so many other positions and statuses - but there is no greater position than this. And you already have it!

- This passage provokes some challenging questions to consider.

  A) How might you act differently if you were conscious all the time that you were seated with Christ in heavenly places?
- rts of your life need to start adapting to the reality of your current status with God? e seated with Christ in the heavenly places, how does that shift your perspective on the things C) If you are seated with Christ in th that have worried you this week?

#### TUESDAY9



#### Read Psalm 91:1

"He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty."

This very first verse of Psalm 91, the prayer of protection, holds the word 'dwell'. The Hebrew word for 'dwell' is *yashab*, which means to sit down, to remain, or to settle. Notice that the very first thing that God wants you to do to enjoy His protection is to be seated. The word "seated" means that you are no longer standing and working. His protection, peace, love, and other blessings flow in your life when you are in a place of rest.

Under the old covenant, the priest had to offer the morning sacrifice and then remain standing for six hours until after the evening sacrifice. But when Jesus was crucified and hung on the cross for six hours until He died, He fulfilled the sacrifices. Because Jesus became the final sacrifice, the work of the priest is done and he no longer has to stand. Because our Saviour cried, "It is finished!", we are today seated in Christ. We can dwell in the secret place of the Most High - a place of peace, safety, and security - and we can live fear-free because the blood of Jesus has paid for every blessing.

Today, whether you are dealing with a difficult financial situation, a sleep disorder, or plagued by depressive thoughts - our prayer is that you will discover a God who loves you, and whose strong hands of protection are over your entire life and over every area that concerns you.

## WEDNES**DAY10**

#### PLEASE BE SEATED

#### Read Ephesians 6:12

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

Jesus has already done everything He is going to do about the enemy, your righteousness, and your victory in life. He has already done it has said, "It is all over, and I did it for you."

The only real power the enemy has against us is deception. He doesn't have power to overcome us. The enemy loves to lie to us, telling us that God doesn't really love us, that He is holding things back from us because we're not good enough.

It happened like that right back at the beginning with Adam and Eve when Satan deceived them into eating the apple. They were the ones with the authority. God had given it to them. So the only way Satan could get to them was to lie to them, because he didn't have power to come against God.

And the interesting thing is that Satan came through a snake to deceive them, one of the most subtle creatures God made.

Are there areas where you are being subtly deceived by the enemy? Into believing something that God does not think about you? Or to doubt the promises of God? Or to not fully realise the authority you have been given over him as a believer?

You can now deal with your problems from a position of triumph and victory, instead of from a place of trying and striving to get the victory. You can sit down and rest in what Jesus has already done. You actually give the devil the most trouble when you sit down!

### THURS**DAY11**

## **WITH CONFIDENCE**

#### Read Hebrews 4:16

"Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven and we are invited to come before Him with boldness. We are not to cower anxiously before His magnificent presence. We are encouraged to come to Him and to keep on coming to Him, without fear or doubt. We are to come to Him freely, constantly, and persistently.

He is not a distant God. We don't need to grovel our way into His presence. We are not helpless, hopeless or trying to make it work. We have been invited to enter confidently, that we may obtain mercy, and find the grace we need to help in time of need.

It is not because of our own merit or worthiness that this invitation has been extended to us. It is only because of the merit, worthiness, excellence, and virtue of Christ's sacrificial offering on our behalf that we have this amazing entitlement. Our confidence is not in ourselves. Our confidence is founded on what Christ has already done on our account.

The only thing that keeps you from fearlessly approaching God is your consciousness of sin. But sin is not an issue with God because Jesus has made perfect provision for you, making you holy and blameless sanctified by His blood. Even in the midst of struggling with sin, you can approach Him. Mercy is not getting what we deserve. Grace is getting what we don't. He has given us both!

#### FRIDAY12

#### THINGS ABOVE

#### Read Colossians 3:1-3

"If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God."

As believers we can fall into the trap of taking care of all areas of our life naturally. We choose to stand in our worldly thinking, instead of sitting in the authority we have already been given.

What does being seated actually involve? What does it require of you? What does that look on a daily basis?

It basically comes down to a whole mindset change. We need to shift our mindset from works - having to earn our salvation, our victory, our blessing - to a place where we realise Christ has already done it all. It can't be earned.

It's putting things to rest – the stuff that you have been fighting for, for a long time – the promises of God and areas of faith you have fluctuated in.

If God has promised you something – rest in it. It might be a family member to be saved. It might be to find your marriage partner. It might be for business to take-off. The fluctuations in your faith will wear you out.

To be seated means that as soon as your thoughts or words take on a defeated tone, its recognising it and reframing them to a triumphant tone.

To be seated means that when you pray, you pray from your place in Christ where triumph is already yours.

## SATUR**DAY13**



#### Read John 15:4-5

"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

Our greatest position as a believer is connected to the vine.

Sometimes we can struggle with the line between contentment, prayer, asking for God's wisdom... and just going and doing. Confusing the first with laziness, and the latter with ambition.

We are called to be ambitious, work hard, and to do things, but the more connected we are to 'The Vine', the easier it is to do things not for our own glory, but for His.

When does God get glory? When we bear much fruit because we have abided in Him.

#### John 15:7-8

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples."

Jesus used this picture of the vine in John 15 to assure His disciples of continued connection and relationship even though He was about to depart from them. He spoke this in a way that also indicated an aspect of choice on their part. Abiding was something they must choose.

When Jesus says "abide in me" he is talking about the will, about the choices, the decisions we make. We must decide to do things which expose ourselves to Him and keep ourselves in contact with Him. This is what it means to abide in Him.

The more we are connected to Jesus the better steward we are of all He has given us access to.

## SUNDAY14

## SPEAKER:

## **SERMON:**

## WEEK 03 EGROUP STUDY: HEAUEN'S BACKING

CONNECT Spend time connecting with each other.

KEY THOUGHT When you honour God, He puts heaven's weight behind you. When you have

heaven's backing you are not viewing things through your own resources, you are viewing them through heaven's resources. This week we hope you feel encouraged to confidently initiate some things in God because you have the weight of heaven

behind you.

WATCH Watch 'Week 03' of the series at egroups.equipperschurch.com

KEY VERSE 2 Timothy 1:7

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound

mind."

We have access to God's love which is unfailing and unconditional. We have access to God's power which is unlimited. And we have access to a sound mind therefore

we have wisdom and don't need to fret or worry.

Q1 If God's spirit within us is one of power, love, and a sound mind – how are you going

accessing those gifts on a daily basis?

STUDY Read Ecclesiastes 11:4

"If you wait for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done."

Back when Ecclesiastes was written, the ideal conditions for sowing would be when there was minimal wind. That way you could scatter the seeds evenly over the field. But you could get carried away and never scatter the seed because the conditions were never good enough. At some point, you have to take the risk. At some point,

you just have to scatter the seed.

If we keep on observing circumstances, instead of trusting God and moving, we may

be erring on disobedience.

Q2 Question 2: Is there an area of your life where you may be waiting for perfect

conditions that you feel God is prompting you to make a move in?

Q3

Describe something going on in or around your life where you would like to see His kingdom and will "come on earth as it is in heaven" – for you or for someone you know.

**Read Romans 8:31** – "If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?"

This is a time as believers to be courageous and to step out with confidence knowing God is for us. Even if it is just us and God – it is still a majority.

Q4 How courageous would you be if you knew you had access to heaven's resources?

Q5 Share some testimonies of times you have stepped out and felt heaven's backing

behind you.

COMMIT What are you going to initiate with confidence this week because you have the weight

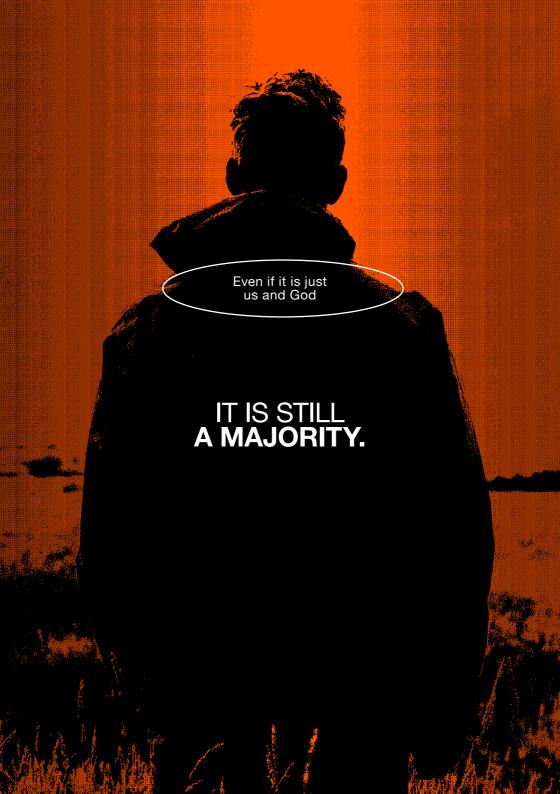
of heaven behind you?

PRAY Thank God for the backing of heaven and all the resources available to you, and for a

fresh boldness this week.

PRACTICAL Share with another member of your eGroup an area where you felt challenged from today's topic, and make a commitment to encourage each other this week as you

decide to make a change in that area.





## **MONDAY15**

## WHOEVER BELIEVES

#### Read John 14:12

"Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father."

This is a promise to all believers. This isn't just for pastors, or veteran Christians, or highly spiritual, mature Christians, or highly gifted Christians. The scripture says, "whoever believes in me."

Believers, pure and simple, will do the works Jesus did.

In other words, this is normal Christianity. This is what it means to be a Christian.

Jesus clearly promised his authority to those who were His own. The problem is that we do not believe it (which we have addressed in previous weeks), and then because of that, we do not exercise that authority effectively.

We have to understand that the infinitely powerful government of heaven backs us up. Jesus Himself is the one who has given us authority in His Name.

**Luke 9:1-2** says, "Then He (Jesus) called His twelve disciples together and gave them power and authority over all demons, and to cure diseases. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal the sick."

Wherever you walk this week, be "authority" minded and "Kingdom" minded. Pray for people for healing and believe that Jesus has given you the authority to do so. Share the gospel and believe that Jesus has given you the authority, therefore people will be saved.

#### TUESDAY16



#### Read Philippians 3:20

"But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Saviour from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables Him to bring everything under His control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like His glorious body."

Our citizenship in heaven began immediately when we chose to follow Jesus. We are Kingdom citizens right now. Our citizenship is a present reality.

Why is this so important? Here's why: Religion postpones citizenship to the future. Religion says, "You will be a citizen... someday. You will be in the Kingdom... you will have joy later... you will be a full citizen. But not today. Not until you have done this, or that." Religion keeps pushing the Kingdom away from people: "You can't get in now; you can't experience it now; you can't benefit from it now; wait until later."

You can never appropriate what you postpone.

The Kingdom of God is present and functional on the earth right now. And that means that all the rights, benefits, and privileges of Kingdom citizenship are yours right now. You can enjoy your citizenship right now. You don't have to wait until some indefinite time in the future.

## WEDNES**DAY17**



#### Read 2 Corinthians 1:20-22

"For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God. Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come."

God is backing you up! To those promises He has made to you – He says YES! But we have a part to play in accessing all God has made available to us. Our part is to agree in faith and say AMEN.

When you put your faith in Jesus you became identified as God's own child. In the spirit realm you are now clearly marked out as God's property. Every principality and power knows who you are. When you transact in the spiritual realm - in prayer, worship or in your time of meditating on God's Word - be confident!

Don't continue that task, don't make that decision, or settle for that limitation without understanding that you are not on your own. All of heaven is backing you up! The Spirit of God is with you. You can boldly step out in faith today.

### THURS**DAY18**

## HOLY BOLDNESS

#### Read Matthew 25:24-28

- "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'
- "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.

So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them."

In life, there are risks every day. There are risks in using the gifts that God has given us. There's a risk to sharing our faith. There's a risk in having children. There's a risk in giving financially. There's risk in almost everything that we do.

Sometimes we can fall into the trap of playing it safe. We can spend our entire lives running scared, more fearful of events and people than we are of God. Some people want a guarantee of success before they obey God. Once God has guaranteed it, then they'll do it. But that doesn't require any faith. And our faith is what pleases God.

Today's passage confronts our fears. God calls us to live lives of holy boldness. Bold faith always involves a risk. If you look at Matthew 25, Jesus is calling us to wisely risk what God has given us to profit our master – Him. God is calling us to wisely invest our lives to his glory. One day we will give an account for what we've done with what He's given us. Jesus makes it clear that we won't be able to say that we just played it safe.

What has God called you to do that you haven't done because of fear?

#### FRIDAY19

#### GOD IS FOR US

#### Romans 8:31

"If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all - how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?"

What does it mean that "God is for us"?

If it was a sports team, "God is for us" would mean that God is on our team. If this was a courtroom, "God is for us" would mean that God would be our lawyer. If this was a debate, "God is for us" would mean that God would be speaking on our team.

So we can start to think that this verse means that we grab God and bring Him to endorse our plans, our way of doing things and our teams. But when we look a little closer we realise that we are not doing the grabbing. Rather, God grabbed us, continues to grab and hold on to us to keep us on His side every single day of our lives.

When we hold this perspective in view and weigh everything else that happens against this revelation of God's love towards us, then the rest seems unimportant.

David held this perspective throughout his entire life. He wrote in Psalm 118:6, "The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?" He penned this in the midst of turmoil and unrest. He could write this because he knew God and knew that God loved him and in light of that, nothing else mattered.

Today, you are blessed to know and understand that God loves you and nothing can or will separate you from him

## SATUR**DAY20**

### WHAT'S NOT FROM GOD

#### 2 Timothy 1:7

"For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."

Paul saw the timidity that was in Timothy. God wanted Timothy to know that this fear wasn't from the God he served.

When we become bold in accessing and using what God has given to us, fear quickly tries to overtake us. To deal to those fears we have to understand that they are not from God. It is a significant step to say, "This isn't God making me feel like this; God hasn't given me this." Perhaps it is from personality, perhaps a weakness of the flesh, perhaps a lie of the enemy - but it isn't from God.

God gives us all we need to live the lives He calls us - He gives us access to power, love and a sound mind!

God didn't give us a fearful spirit, but a powerful one, filling us with courage as we walk in step with the Holy Spirit. When we do His work, proclaim His word, represent His kingdom, we have all His power supporting us.

We are given a spirit of love - love for God and love for others that encourages us to be bold in sharing the gospel out of compassion for their souls.

We're also given a spirit of self-control (or sound mind as in some Bible versions). The ancient Greek word here had the idea of a calm, self-controlled mind, in contrast to the panic and confusion that comes in a fearful situation. When we fill our minds with biblical truth, we can rein in our thoughts to not be fearful but rather to stand firmly on the truth.

# SUNDAY21

# SPEAKER:

# **SERMON:**

Q2

# WEEK 04 EGROUP STUDY: OPEN HOUSE

CONNECT Spend time connecting with each other.

KEY THOUGHT Now that we understand what we have access to, what are we going to do with it? It

is time to live open-handed and pass on what we have received.

WATCH Watch 'Week 04' of the series at egroups.equipperschurch.com

KEY VERSE **Matthew 5:15-16** (MSG)

in heaven."

"Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father

Q1 What do you think it means to keep open house and to be generous with your life?

Share testimonies of moments where you have opened up your life to others and it

has caused an openness in them towards God.

STUDY Read Matthew 18:23-35 – The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant

God has been generous towards us and is not holding anything back. He expects us to also be generous. There is a spiritual violation that takes place when we don't pass

on what we have received.

Q3 What effects does not practicing what Jesus has given to us (ie grace, forgiveness,

generosity) have on our lives?

Q4 Are there any areas in your life that you acknowledge you are holding back from

being generous in?

A key to transforming our city and community will be our generosity. In a world where everyone is feeling uncertain, therefore protecting what they have, as believers we need to be living open-handed. In a time where others feel helpless, we are not

helpless in any state our world is in. We are God's people and we are prepared for this.

Q5 What does it look like to live open-handed in our world? How has God prepared us to

live open-handed?

COMMIT Now that we understand what we have full access to, what are we going to do

with it?

PRAY Thank God that your imperfect self and your willingness is all He needs. Commit

again to living a generous, open-handed life.

PRACTICAL Share with another member of your eGroup an area where you felt challenged from

today's topic, and make a commitment to encourage each other this week as you

decide to make a change in that area.

### **BECAUSE OF THE NATURE OF GOD,**



### **MONDAY22**

### **MAGNANIMOUS**

#### READ: 2 Corinthians 6:11-13 MSG

"Dear, dear Corinthians, I can't tell you how much I long for you to enter this wide-open, spacious life. We didn't fence you in. The smallness you feel comes from within you. Your lives aren't small, but you're living them in a small way. I'm speaking as plainly as I can and with great affection. Open up your lives. Live openly and expansively!"

This week we are learning what is means to keep open house. There is this old word that we don't often hear that explains this idea – magnanimous.

"Magnanimous" = a generous spirit; an over-sized spirit

It comes from the Latin words "magnus" (great) and "animus" (soul), so it literally describes someone who is big-hearted. To have a great soul. More than being 'nice' or 'doing some good', it describes the heart, the soul, the spirit of a person.

It is a person who makes sacrifices in daily life for the sake of others, who doesn't stop to settle every score, refuses to be swayed by pettiness or resentfulness, pursues what is great and honorable even if it is difficult, thinks the best of others, has grace to bear the immaturities or shortcomings of others around them, generous in forgiveness.

On the flipside, to have a smallness of soul is to choose the path of least discomfort, to be preoccupied with your own needs, to lack consideration of others needs, be suspicious, calculate every action or good deed – 'if I give this, I will get that', operates with an attitude of scarcity – there is never enough time, attention or love to share, judges others quickly, holds onto offence and doesn't freely offer grace, becomes cynical in their perspective of people and life.

If you have been feeling enclosed or stuck, it is time to open up your life again. It's not a one-time thing. It's again and again over our whole life.

### TUES**DAY23**

### A GENEROUS GOD

#### Read Psalm 145:16

"You open your hand, satisfying the desires of every living thing."

This verse tells us that God Himself lives open-handed. Everything about Him and His character is magnified and generous. Psalm 36 speaks of it...

His love 'reaches to the heavens' (vs 5)

His faithfulness reaches 'to the skies' (vs 5)

His righteousness is 'like the highest mountains' (vs 6)

His justice is 'like the great deep' (vs 6)

We also see His magnitude and generosity in creation. We see a world absolutely dripping in variety, beauty, splendor, and majesty, because the One who made it was generous. He didn't cut corners, cut costs, or do it on a budget. His world is lavish and abundant.

He's not a sensible, give-them-what-they-need kind of God. But a God whose heart overflows with kindness, richness, and a desire to bless.

And when it came to salvation, God held nothing back. We are the fruit of God's generosity and He didn't just offer us grace once. He keeps offering us grace, He keeps offering us love – even when we don't deserve it.

God doesn't work on a system of 'you do this' and 'I will do that for you'. His grace is abundant. His promises are abundant. His forgiveness is abundant. His joy is abundant. His freedom is abundant. Everything about Him is abundant.

And then Jesus blows us away with the type of spirit He lived with – on the cross as he is facing unimaginable pain, he says this: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

If there was ever a moment to be mad, to not be gracious - it was that one. Yet he offers forgiveness immediately. Not 3 days later when He had time to process it and pray about it. How could He be that good, that generous, that gracious?

Everything about God is big and generous. So because of the nature of God, our starting point is abundance, not scarcity.

### WEDNES**DAY24**

### LOSE YOUR LIFE

#### Read Matthew 10:39

"If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it."

When we think about the generosity of the God we love and serve, we have a pattern to follow. We have a pattern to live open lives even when it's at great personal cost.

It's not always easy to choose this kind of open-handed life. The need can sometimes feel too great. It can be tricky to know where to begin. Our own needs can seem so great and all-consuming of our time and efforts. Sometimes it feels like the pattern doesn't work - we may feel we lose out a little at first. We feel the pinch of being the bigger person in that unfair situation. We may feel like we are always giving and never receiving. We can turn to try and see where the reaping is going to come from and feel disappointed when we can't see it. We see people hoarding and living for themselves but succeeding and seemingly happy and doubt whether this open life God has called us to live really works.

**Galatians 6:9** says "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."

When we live this way, when we choose the path which requires sacrifice, our life grows. As you look to increase the life of others, God increases your life.

### THURSDAY25

### REFRESHED

#### Read Proverbs 11:24-25

"One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."

You will reap when you sow. But in the Kingdom of God, you don't necessarily reap **where** you sow. Our investment produces a harvest, or a return, across every area of our life - spirit, soul, and body.

God's generosity can't be calculated. God's way = we somehow end up gaining more by giving.

Maybe you have really felt God put something on your heart to action but your calculations are causing you to delay your obedience or action. By your calculations – it doesn't quite work out money-wise, time-wise, sacrifice-wise. But your estimations of how it is going to go is failing to account for what you can't account for – God's abundance that flows as we give freely.

There is so much scripture which speaks to this truth:

#### Proverbs 11:24-25

"One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed."

#### Luke 6:38

"Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it **will** be measured to you."

#### Proverbs 19:17

"Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will reward them for what they have done."

He will!

### FRIDAY26

### **ABUNDANCE**

#### Read 2 Corinthians 9:8 AMP

"And **God is able** to make all grace (every favour and earthly blessing) come to you in abundance, so that you may always and under all circumstances and whatever the need be self-sufficient [possessing enough to require no aid or support and **furnished in abundance** for every good work and charitable donation]."

That is a word for us this year as Equippers. That we may always and under all circumstances possess enough and be furnished in abundance for every good work and charitable donation.

God will reveal some small and big needs to us as individuals and as a church community this year. He wants to prepare us so that we have a bigness of spirit, an openness, a boldness, and courage to pursue the opportunities as the needs arise.

#### Deuteronomy 15:7-11

"If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted toward your needy neighbor. You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be... Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake."

Equippers is full of many caring, compassionate, empathetic people who long to see life-change in others and to bring a shift to real community needs. We are generous people. Not just generous financially, but generous in every way. We believe the key to transforming our cities and communities will be our collective, consistent generosity as we keep accessing all God has made available to us.

### SATUR**DAY27**

### CONQUERORS

#### Read Revelation 3:20-21

**NIV:** "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne.

**MSG:** "Look at me. I stand at the door and knock. If you hear me call and open the door, I'll come right in and sit down to supper with you. Conquerors will sit alongside me at the head table, just as I, having conquered, took the place of honour at the side of my Father. That's my gift to the conquerors!"

This is a promise to everyone who conquers, everyone who presses on in faith to the end, despite all – the victorious will sit alongside Him!

We tend to think of overcoming as being entirely victorious in everything, always. But it is more about being victorious in the end. The one still standing at the end of the day is the victor, no matter how bruised and beaten he may be.

We will have countless opportunities in our life to overcome. To overcome sin. To overcome pain. To overcome disappointment. To overcome temptation. To overcome challenge. Each time we overcome, it is a way we honour God for the unbelievable, inexpressible life and eternity that He has called us to, and for His unfailing goodness and love.

2 Timothy 2:12 says "If we endure, we will also reign with him."

Well done on making it through this study over the past 4 weeks. Can we encourage you to keep going! Get up again today. Know your authority. Keep overcoming. Choose faith again today, and every day. Boldly believe. Courageously take some leaps of faith in 2021. Continue to understand and access all God has made available to you

# SUNDAY28

# SPEAKER:

# **SERMON:**

046 FULL ACCESS

We pray that over these past 28 days God has opened your eyes to the amazing, unsearchable truths of what Christ accomplished for you through the Cross.

Okay, now what? What do you do to keep walking and living in the freedom and abundant life in which Christ died for you to live?

You have to realise that you are a creature of habit - you build your daily activities around your priorities and passions. You make time for what you truly value. You build habits and routines around the things that really matter to you. This is an important principle to understand as you seek to live no longer as a slave, but in the freedom of Christ.

Every day, you must "preach" to yourself the message of the Cross. Your audience is your own heart. And the message is simple: Christ died on the Cross for your sins so you could truly live for God.

#### Here are 3 simple ways to do that every day:

MEMORISE THE GOSPEL - The Bible refers to memorising Scripture as storing up His Word in our hearts (Psalm 119:11). God wants you to tuck His promises into your hearts so that, no matter where you are or what you are doing, you can pull them out and be strengthened by their truth. Having these verses instantly accessible is so helpful. If you find yourself losing perspective at a difficult point in the day, preach some Gospel to yourself.

**PRAY THE GOSPEL** - The Gospel should be at the centre of your prayer life. The Gospel makes it possible for you to approach God. The Gospel gives you the confidence to pray boldly.

**STUDY THE GOSPEL** - To grow in your passion for what Jesus has done, continue to increase your understanding of what He has done. Never be content with your current grasp of the Gospel. Great books of the Bible to camp out in are the books of Romans and Galatians.

Lastly, we would love to know how this study has encouraged or helped you. You can email testimonies to us at info@equipperschurch.com or share with your local Pastor or eGroup leader.



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