



RAISE EXPECTATIONS

GET TALKING

- We can have a hard time with limits. Where do you struggle with limits?

MESSAGE HIGHLIGHTS

Limiting Hope:

- We limit by our past
- We limit by our place
- We limit by our pessimism/panic
- We limit by our perspective

Raising Hope:

1. Believe God sees you and your realities
2. Make Jesus your savior, not your helper
3. Surrender to His work
4. Enlarge your possibilities

DIG IN

1. Jason shared that we are limited by our past, our place, our pessimism/panic, and our perspective. In the state of our world today, which one of these limits do you see happening most often? Where do you personally struggle most? How can these limits affect our relationship with God, with the church, or with the world around us?
2. Read John 5:1-7
Notice in John 5:6 that there were many sick people at the pool, but Jesus focused on this man. Which words stand out to you in this verse? Share a time when you knew God was pursuing you, or He was trying to get your attention. How does knowing that God is pursuing you change your relationship with Him?
3. In this scene, the lame man was telling Jesus how to heal him with his limited understanding. Share a time in your life where you tried to tell God how to make your life better, or heal/change things. How did that work out for you? What is does it look like to have a relationship with Jesus for who He is, not what He can do for you?
4. Jesus' questions are always meant to take us deeper than what appears on the surface. The key question that Jesus asked in these verses is "do you want to be healed?" Why does He ask this question when the answer seems so obvious? What was He really asking? How does this question apply to us today?
5. Read Ephesians 3. What do you think "far more abundantly" looks like? What are some ways we have limited God? What stops us from raising our expectations? Spend some time praying together as a group. Confess where you have limited God and declare His almighty power over every circumstance, wound, and relationship in your life.

BIG IDEA

Make Jesus your Savior and your center

(continued)

NEXT STEPS

Following Jesus primarily happens in three relationships: with God, with the Church (other believers) and with the World (our spheres of influence). Deepening and strengthening these three relationships helps fuel our mission as Grace Church and the world wide church at large.

What can you do over the next week to grow in one of these key relationships to deepen your faith and grow your hope? For ideas on what you can do, check out the rhythm studies and idea cards found on our website at <https://extendgrace.org/three-relationships/>. Spend some time this week asking God to reveal where He wants you to focus.

Prayer

Lord, where we have limited you, we are sorry.

Where we looked to You for what You can do, but not who You are, we are sorry.

Where we have not believed that You could, or would heal us, we are sorry.

Jesus, take your rightful place in our lives. You are all powerful, the One who overcame death, and the giver of life. We want to draw close to you and be healed in the time and way that you know is best for us.