



THE EMPOWERMENT PIVOT

How God is Redefining Our View of Normal

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The Leadership Round Table Series

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STUDY OUTLINE:

SESSIONS

DATE

1: What if Jesus Meant What He Said?

2: Pivot to an Infinite God

3: Pivot to an Incarnate God

4: Pivot to an Ascended God

5: Pivot to a Revealing God

6: Pivot to a Transformational God

7: Pivot to a Habitational God

8: Next Steps

PARTICIPANT VALUES:

- BE Committed to the Group
- BE Ready to Add Value to Each Member
- BE On Time
- BE Free of Your Cell Phone
- BE Encouraging
- BE Willing to Learn from Others

EXPECTATIONS: This will be a life changing Study if I...



MY ROUND TABLE MEMBERS:

Name

Phone

Email

“Have the humility to learn from those around you.” – John C. Maxwell



THE EMPOWERMENT PIVOT

Chapter 1 - What if Jesus Meant What He Said?

One of these days some simple soul will pick up the Book of God, read it, and believe it.

Then the rest of us will be embarrassed. – Leonard Ravenhill

WHAT IF NORMAL ISN'T NORMAL

1. What statement of Jesus causes such a conflict in your faith?
2. How would you define “a crisis of your faith?”
3. Why do you believe hardship leads you to have a crisis of faith?

Unprocessed disappointment is a wrecking ball upon faith. (p.6)

JESUS REALLY MEANT WHAT HE SAID

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. ¹³ And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. ¹⁴ You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. John 14:12-14 (NIV)*



4. If Jesus meant what he said then how could your life be different?

What is hindering you from experiencing this today?

5. To what extent are you willing/unwilling to make these adjustments?

⁸ “For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,” declares the LORD.

⁹ “As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55 (NIV)

ACTS 1 & 2: CONTRAST IN EMPOWERMENT

6. What shifted between chapter 1 (choosing of a disciple)
to chapter 2 (changed lives)?

7. How does that speak to you in your Christian life?



A HISTORY OF PIVOTS

8. Describe the pivots made in each era:

Pentecost:
Reformation:
Wesleyan:
Welsh Revival:
Today:

9. Complexity vs Simplicity:

How could a church impact the culture around them if everyone simply embraced a life empowered and equipped by the Holy Spirit?

AN INVITATION TO PIVOT

Pause, take time to sit at Jesus feet, stay at his feet and ask him these questions and listen:

- **A change of mindset:** What belief(s) in my life are you asking me to pivot from?
- **A change of perspective:** Where do I need to alter to begin to discover God's normal
- **A change of expectation:** What do I believe Jesus you could do in and through me if I took you at your word?

PRAYER

“Jesus, I invite you to take me deeper into yourself. I ask you to show me where you desire or replace my version with yours.”



Chapter 2 – Pivot to an Infinite God

To be a follower of Jesus is to be open to the same Spirit whom Jesus was wide open.

– Scot McKnight

1. Where do you identify with Doug's realization that his view of God was far too small?
2. What did he discover following his healing experience?
3. Why is it important that you change your expectations of experiencing God?

INFINITE LIGHT IN THE FACE OF DARKNESS

4. Jesus came to set the captives free...where do you need to experience freedom?
5. Evaluate the ministry of your church. How are people experiencing freedom in your church?

SURPRISED BY GOD'S POWER

⁴ We do not use those things to fight with that the world uses. We use the things God gives to fight with and they have power. Those things God gives to fight with destroy the strong-places of the devil. 2 Corinthians 10 (NLV)



6. What could your life and the church ministry be capable of if it were to utilize the power of God to tear down strongholds?

7. What is holding you back from experiencing fruitfulness?

GOD IS AN INFINITE BEING TO BE EXPERIENCED

God's desire for his version of normal to touch every part of your life, every conceivable situation, in every element of the world he created (p. 32).

Pause, take time to sit at Jesus feet, stay at his feet and ask him these questions and listen:

- Jesus, where do you want me to experience more in my life?

- God, where do you desire to invade me as an imperfect believer?

- What would alter in your life if you embraced this desire of God?

HOW DID WE COME TO VIEW GOD AS SMALL?

8. Why do you believe the empowerment of the early church has been declining to the place where the world believes the supernatural and the church is suspiciously agnostic?

9. How do you identify with this statement? "There must be more." He is the more (p.37).



EXPERIENCING THE MORE OF GOD

10. What are you going to do to enter into this mystery?

11. As you reflect upon your life (and your church life), would you describe your mindset as one of abundance or scarcity?

12. Where do you need to see the infinite abundance of God in your life, marriage, children, business or job? Church?

*³⁰And you must love the Lord your God
with all your heart,
all your soul,
all your mind, and
all your strength.' Mark12 (NLT)*

13. Are you too easily pleased with less than the best God has to offer?

14. Do you want more of Him?

15. If so, then what steps are you going to take next?

PRAYER

"Jesus, I invite you to reveal your infinite nature to me. I give you access to the deeper places in my soul that are still in need of your transforming presence."



Chapter 3 – Pivot to an Incarnate God

*Jesus Christ, though he was never ever less than God,
for 33 years chose to live as if he were never ever more than a man,
in dependence upon the Holy Spirit. – Major W. Ian Thomas*

1. How would you explain that Jesus was fully God and fully man?
2. Where do you see Jesus relating to your experience in life today?

THE GAP BETWEEN JESUS AND ME

“Whoever believes in you will do the works he did, and even greater things?”

3. How do you explain the gap between what Jesus did and how you are living out your spiritual life?
4. What is your understanding of you being “sent” by Jesus?

WE ARE SENT AS JESUS WAS SENT

5. What are the key components of you being sent by God?

“As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.’ And with that he breathed on them and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.” John 20:21,22



JESUS, THE SPIRIT - ANOINTED HUMAN

6. If Jesus lived out of his Spirit-anointed humanity, what are the implications for your Christian experience?

7. How could Jesus be an acceptable representation of us before God if he periodically pulled his “divinity” card to live?

8. What could happen in your life if you believed Jesus was fully human while on earth?

THE GREATEST CHALLENGE TO TODAY’S CHURCH

9. What does the author believe is the greatest challenge to the church fulfilling it’s mandate?

10. Why is it easier to believe Jesus accessed his divinity rather than his humanity when we look at our life or the church we attend?

The incarnation of Jesus is a picture of our prototype: the Spirit-anointed, Spirit-led, and Spirit-empowered human being. (p.57)

11. Where do you see Jesus “sentness” in the account of his baptism?

12. Luke 4:1, 14,18 paints a clear picture of Jesus ability to live out his sentness. What was it?



A CLOSER LOOK AT OUR HOLY SPIRIT SENTNESS

13. Many believers today struggle with doing greater things than Jesus, but how did the disciples illustrate this principle? (See Acts 5:25, 19:12)

14. Discuss the progression of Jesus empowering others...

Luke 9:1,2,6

Luke 10:1,2,17-19

Matthew 28:18-20

Acts 1:8

“It’s time for Christ-followers to follow in his sentness and pivot towards the empowerment Jesus has already secured for us.” (p. 61).

PIVOT TO INTIMACY

Pause, take time to sit at Jesus feet, stay at his feet and ask him these questions and listen:

- Jesus, where do I need to experience deeper intimacy with you?

- Jesus, show me how you provide me insight through your life, of how I ought to live in greater intimacy with the Father?

- Jesus, what is prohibiting me from living out my complete identity in you?

PRAYER

“Jesus, I invite you to anoint me with your Holy Spirit and to reveal to me my true identity in you, the affection you have for me, and your affirmation of who I am.”



Chapter 4 – Pivot to an Ascended God

*...don't beg God to do the things he has already commissioned us to do.
Simply get on he page of whatever he's doing in a given moment and release what he has
already given you.*

1. If you would have been standing alongside of Doug when he prayed for the man, what would have been your observations?
2. What was unusual about his approach from your own prayer experiences?
3. Who is excluded from experiencing the manifest presence of God in and through their life?

BECAUSE I'M GOING TO THE FATHER

And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:6-7

4. What are the implications for you knowing you are seated with him in heaven – today?
5. If the bulk of Jesus miracles were outside the “church walls,” then how does this change your availability, and ability to minister outside of the church?



6. What did Doug have to overcome to be used by God while sitting on the plane?

Whoever believes in Jesus already possesses the qualifications to join him in his work. (p. 77).

7. Why is understanding your identify in Christ so crucial to living an empowered life?

BRING BACK ASCENSION SUNDAY

8. Why should you embrace the truth of ascension Sunday?

9. When you are connected to the ascension of Jesus, how does this change your outlook for your ministry?

10. What are the differences between praying from above and praying from below?

11. How could you imagine your life and ministry to be if you lived from above?

The indwelling power of Jesus is not of you, but it is in you to give away to a world desperate for light. (p. 85).

12. If you know who your are, and you know where you live, what is the next step you need to take to activate the Holy Spirit's power in your life?



YOUR PRIMARY ASSIGNMENT

The primary assignment of the church is to make disciples, but your primary assignment to stay connected to God.

Pause, take time to sit at Jesus feet, stay at his feet and ask him these questions and listen:

- What does it look like for me to be connected to you Jesus?
- What attitudes, doubts, fears, sins, that hinder me from being connected to you Jesus?
- What is the fruit in my life when I am abiding in you?

PRAYER

“Jesus, I ask you to give me your right-sized assignment, where I can give to the world around me what is of you but is also in me to give away...”



Chapter 5 – Pivot to a Revealing God

If Jesus where to speak to me, would I be able to hear it?

1. When did you have an impression in your mind, and you were unsure if it was God's voice or something else?
2. How were you able to distinguish if it was God or not?

“My sheep listen to my voice...” John 10:27

3. What is Jesus implying with this verse?
4. If God desires to speak to you his child (sheep), then how come you don't hear it?

A GOD WHO REVEALS HIMSELF

Pause, take time to sit at Jesus feet, stay at his feet and ask him these questions and listen:

- Jesus, what do you want to say to me?
- Jesus, which predictable pattern of mine reveals you to me?
- Jesus, where is my agenda interfering with your agenda for me?

*God's voice tends towards silence
when our agenda stubbornly does not align with his. (p. 95)*



5. How did Doug's encounter with the "big" man next to him become a near miss in hearing God's voice?
6. What has the modern church missed out on by not listening for Jesus voice?
7. If every believer has the mind of Christ (1 Cor. 2:16), then why is it most difficult for them to hear the voice of Christ?

BARRIERS TO HEARING JESUS' VOICE

8. How is unbelief the greatest barrier to hearing God's voice?
9. Why is stating you can't hear God's voice a lie according to scripture?
10. Why is taking the posture of a child helpful in hearing God's voice?
11. How do you distinguish the 4 potential voices in your mind?

PRAYER

"Jesus, I invite you to teach me to better hear and recognize your voice. I renounce the lie that I cannot hear your voice, because the Bible tells me I can. I agree with the truth that through the Holy Spirit I already possessed the mind of Christ and that you alone show me things that matter to the Father."



Chapter 6 – Pivot to a Transformational God

In my pain and grief, I was beginning to pivot towards a transforming God — but only as I gave him access to the deep, still-to-be-redeemed places.

Still-to-be-redeemed Places

Pause, take time to sit at Jesus feet, stay at his feet and ask him these questions and listen:

- Jesus, what painful experience from my past do you want me to explore?
- Jesus, I invite you to reveal any still-to-be-redeemed place in my life?
- Jesus, give me ears to hear how you want to redeem my painful memory?

THE TRANSFORMING PRESENCE OF JESUS

1. According to 2 Corinthians 3:16, what is your part in experiencing transformation?

“Wherever his glory is revealed, transformation takes place.” (p. 119).

2. Why is there hope for your transformation when you understand God’s part?
3. How did Doug define authentic forgiveness?



4. What is the connection with unforgiveness and transformation?

A PATHWAY TO PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION

5. Why is it important to distinguish between the symptoms of sinfulness and the root of your brokenness?
6. What are of your brokenness do you need to give the Holy Spirit access?
7. What is today's church missing out on by trusting only what is intellectual rather than mysterious?

TRANSFORMING DARKNESS INTO LIGHT

8. *"do not give the devil a foothold."* Paul is saying this to believers, so how can a Christians become "demonized?"
9. Why does do you struggle with condemnation rather than conviction?
10. What are the coping mechanisms, masks, false versions of yourself, you have normalized as part of your life to conceal your brokenness and pain?

PRAYER

"Jesus, I give you access to the roots of the still to be redeemed places in my soul. I invite you to dive deep within me, underneath the negative symptoms I experienced in my life.."

"Jesus, is there a memory you wish to meet me in? Jesus, where are you in that memory? What do you wish to show me, to say to me?"



Chapter 7 – Pivot to a Habitational God

If there is a single key area of faith and practice that divided Northern and Southern Christians, it is this matter of spiritual forces and their efforts on the everyday human world.

– Philip Jenkins

1. Why is it necessary for you to experience his inhabitation? What are the results?
2. What has potentially shifted in you to move from being God dependent to being self reliant?

FILLED or ALREADY FILLED? The Wrong Question

3. If you are called to “be filled with the Holy Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18) as Paul states, what are the implications for you knowing that the people Paul was writing to were already Christians?
4. Why do you think Paul used the analogy of being drunk to being filled with the Holy Spirit?
5. What does it mean to you to “be consumed with the very presence of Jesus?”
6. What is God’s desired outcome of you bring inhabited by the Holy Spirit?
7. What do these statements mean to you:

You receive his Spirit at the point of your salvation – for your benefit

You are intended to receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit – for the world’s benefit



MARKS OF GOD'S INHABITING PRESENCE

Pause, take time to sit at Jesus feet, stay at his feet and ask him these questions and listen:

- Jesus, where in my life and ministry am I bearing the marks of empowerment like these supernatural demonstrations?
- Jesus, what could be the cause of the fatigue and frustration in my life and ministry today?
- Jesus, what area of my life do you want me to experience more of you?

“Jesus never once sent people into mission without first training and empowering them to supernaturally proclaim the gospel, heal the sick, and cast out demons.” (p.148)

8. Why do you believe most believers tend to avoid such a mission?
9. How do you explain the rapid expansion of the church in Acts – who were without buildings, plans or policies – and the minimal expansion of the church today? What is missing? Why is it missing?
10. Will you pursue him at all costs...pursue him for for what he can do...pursue him for who he is?

NEXT STEPS:

Have you asked your Heavenly Father to give you more of the Holy Spirit?

Ask him now. Ask him daily. Pursue him relentlessly with no Plan B.



Register for the next Holy Spirit Encounter Weekend or Soul Care Equipping Conference to discover more.