



Greater Things Series Overview

We all come to communities of faith with expectations. We have expectations of what to expect when we gather, of what we'll do, sometimes even of who will be there. We have expectations of those who lead us and of those with whom we are in community. And we even have expectations of what being a part of a faith community will mean for us as individuals: perhaps that we'll become better versions of ourselves, that we'll do good in our communities, that we'll find meaning and purpose. But in a community of faith, we also engage with Jesus' expectations of us.

In John 14:12, Jesus, shares his expectation of his disciples:

I tell you the truth: whoever believes in Me will be able to do what I have done, but they will do even greater things, because I will return to be with the Father.

(The Voice)

Now the disciples have witnessed Jesus doing incredible things. They've seen him turn water to wine. They've seen him heal the sick. They've witnessed the crowds that have gathered and lives changed. And yet, Jesus' expectation is that his disciples will do even greater things than these.

It's a teaching that's hard to believe. Both for the disciples who experienced Jesus' works firsthand and for present-day disciples who are removed from Jesus' earthly ministry by a couple of millennia. How could Jesus have believed that his disciples—then and now—could do greater things than he?

He who performed miracles, who healed, who drew crowds, who taught, who testified, who changed the course of human history? Yep. Greater things. Jesus really believed in us.

Through the course of this series, we will engage in stories and teaching from the Gospel of John to help understand and then live out Jesus' radical expectation for us.

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Week 1: Accept these truths...

John 14:8-14

Jesus believed in the work of his disciples because he believed so fully in God. Over and over, he begs crowds, religious authorities, and even his disciples to trust his teachings about God, to "Accept these truths..." This week in worship, we will look to Jesus' teachings about himself, God, and the Spirit so that we might understand why Jesus believed his disciples could do

Week 2: Come and See

John 1:35-39

Jesus never forced his message, never required anyone to believe in him, never pressured disciples to follow them. Instead, he offered a simple invitation, "Come and see." This invitation echoes throughout the Gospel of John. But while it starts with Jesus, the invitation always gets wider. This week in worship, we'll see how Jesus' invitations are shared and answered, so that we might understand what Jesus' invitation is to us now.

Week 3: Miraculous Signs

John 6:26-34

It's easy to think of miracles as magic, as inexplicable occurrences that could never be replicated. It's part of why this "greater things" expectation is so hard to believe. We could never do miracles. Throughout the Gospel of John, the miraculous signs Jesus performs draw crowds and create buzz. But are the miracles really the heart of his ministry? This week in worship, we'll explore Jesus' teaching about miracles as we consider the miraculous signs in our own lives.

Week 4: Believe

John 12:44-47 & John 14:15-17

More than anything, Jesus' ministry in the Gospel of John is about belief—in God, in Jesus as God's son, in God's promises to send the Holy Spirit to the disciples even after Jesus is gone. Belief isn't always easy. But this week in worship, we will explore how the gift of the Holy Spirit helps us to believe in Jesus' message.

These worship resources are intended for you to use and adapt as is appropriate for your ministry context. This planner includes weekly message resources, prayers, music recommendations for small group and leadership team discussions, as well as thematic graphic resources for use in digital and printed material. Additionally, there is a guide for incorporating communal acts of testimony and witness that can accompany this series or be engaged at a different time.