

FIELD-TESTED SERMON RESOURCES

---

# SERMON SERIES

---

TRUSTED | BIBLICAL | FIELD-TESTED

Thank you for downloading this sample PDF from our Sermon Series line of resources.

When you stand up in front of students to proclaim the Word of God, you need trusted, creative, and biblically solid content. YM360's Sermon Series are exactly what you're looking for!

Field-tested, from-the-trenches of youth ministry, YM360 Sermon Series are complete detailed sermon outlines, discussion questions, and graphic packages designed to help you lead students closer to God through proclaiming His Word.

---

## SERIES OVERVIEW FOR NOW TO HIM: Marveling at God's Glory

Even though Scripture continually testifies to the greatness of our God, we can still question His power and majesty. Why? He has revealed and proven His character time and time again. So why do we question or doubt His power at work within us? In *Now To Him*, we will dig into God's incredible power to do more than all we can imagine, strengthen us for His purpose, and keep us from stumbling, which is why we should bring Him all the praise and glory that He deserves.

## "NOW TO HIM" COVERS THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES AND PASSAGES:

- **Session 1 – Who Is Able To Do More (Ephesians 3:20-21) |** We all want our life to count for something – to make some sort of difference with our actions and words. But do our plans align with God's? It can be difficult to surrender our will in exchange for God's, but when we align our plans with what God has for us, we quickly realize that His plan will always be greater than our own.
- **Session 2 – Who Is Able To Strengthen You (Romans 16:25-27) |** We've established that God has a plan and purpose for each of us. But sometimes, His will seems almost unattainable. How am I supposed to follow God's plan for my life when I can't even do the small things right? God has certainly called us to a big task, but He hasn't left us unequipped. Through our faith in Jesus, God is able to strengthen us to live in faithful obedience and humble submission to His will.
- **Session 3 – Who Is Able To Keep You From Stumbling (Jude 1:24-25) |** There are a ton of things that seek to trip us up on the path that God has prepared for us. And because we still live in a fallen world, we will still sin even though God has strengthened us for His plan. Yet, thankfully, it is not our sufficiency that keeps us in God's love. It's only God's grace and power that keep us from stumbling and present us blameless before Him!
- **Session 4 – Be The Glory (Romans 11:33-36) |** One common thread connects all of these passages – "to God be the glory." We all have things we glorify and chase after in search of love and satisfaction, but how should we respond to a God who is able to do all of these things we've discussed? We should respond by giving God all the glory and worship because of who He is and what He has done.

## "NOW TO HIM" IS PART OF YM360'S SERMON SERIES LINE OF RESOURCES AND IS IDEAL FOR:

- Any large group setting
- Mid-week youth service
- "Master teacher" format

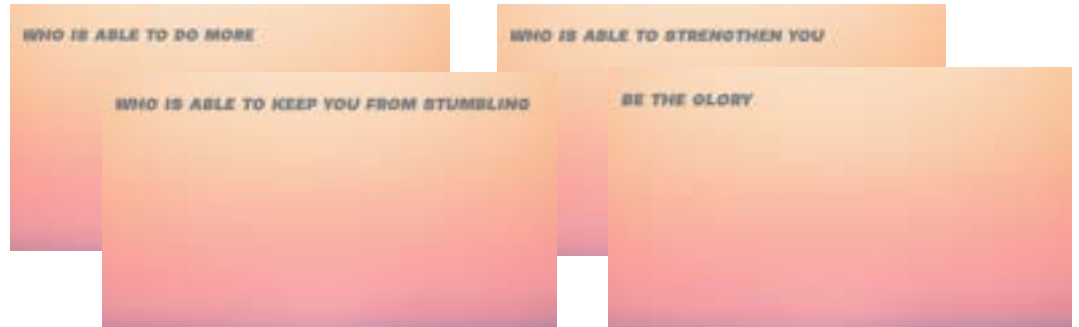
# BACKGROUND SLIDES, PROMOTIONAL ARTWORK, AND MORE . . .

## EVERY SERMON SERIES FROM YM360 COMES WITH:

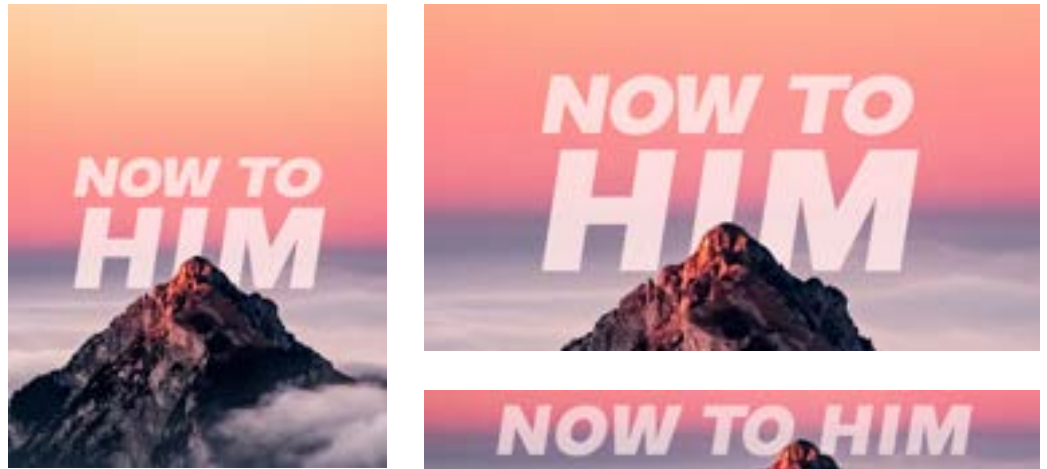
- **Detailed Sermon Outlines** – Every Sermon Series comes with detailed sermon outlines. Teach them "as is" or adapt them to suit your specific ministry context.
- **Discussion questions** – Questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives. You can use these discussion questions to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go.
- **Title and Background slides** – These are designed to be dropped into your favorite presentation software to help you build a creative environment around your sermon. Use them as a backdrop for song lyrics, Scripture passages, teaching points, and any illustrations you choose to display.
- **Artwork for promo and social media** – Social media images, web banners, and a printable poster file are included. Perfect for newsletters, websites, social media platforms, or print them off for posters and bulletin inserts.
- **Logo (including native logo design files)** – We include a logo file and the native design files to allow you to use the logo in ways you see fit.
- **100% downloadable and adaptable**

Each YM360 Sermon Series comes with title and background slides, promotional art (including Instagram images), and logo treatments. Here is what to expect.

## BACKGROUND AND TITLE SLIDES



## PROMOTIONAL ARTWORK



## INSTGRAM IMAGES



## LOGO TREATMENT



NOTE: Each YM360 Sermon Series also comes with the native files of the logo in case you want to replicate the design for other uses.

## **Now To Him Sermon Series | Session 1: Who Is Able To Do More**

---

**How To Use A YM360 Sermon Series** | YM360 Sermon Series are designed for use by a communicator in a large group setting. Each series download provides various elements such as a detailed sermon outline, suggestions on illustrations or images, Scripture passages, background information, and application points that you can use to craft a message that speaks to your students in your specific context.

This series download also includes discussion questions that can be used to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go. These questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives.

Make sure to leverage the series logo, title slide, background slides, and social media artwork this YM360 Sermon Series provides for promotion and message support. We've even included the native design files to allow you the freedom to use the logo in any way that meets your needs.

This YM360 Sermon Series was created to be suitable for all types of churches and ministry environments. It was intentionally designed to provide you with everything you need while also allowing you the freedom to make it fit your particular ministry context. Nobody knows your ministry like you do. Therefore, we encourage you to make any adjustments to this series you feel are necessary to best fit the needs of your students, church, or ministry context.

**A Prayer Before You Prepare** | God, we praise You. And we praise You only. We thank You for Your wonderful work that You continually do in and through our lives. We thank You for Your wisdom and provision You so freely give. And we thank You that through Your Son Jesus, we have hope, peace, and salvation that surpasses all understanding. We thank You and praise You for Your goodness! God, help us in this moment to focus our minds and our hearts on You and Your Word. Help us to push past the noise we brought into this moment and only hear Your voice. May the words we are about to speak bring You all the glory and praise that You deserve. May we not recite broken promises or empty praises in Your Name. But may we only experience what You desire, fervent hearts eager to meet with You. We pray all of these things in the name of Jesus, Amen!

# Now To Him Teaching Guide | A One-Page Glimpse Of Everything You Need To Prepare

---

**Series Snapshot** | *Now To Him* is a four-session sermon series that will help your students realize that we aren't walking through life alone. We have a powerful, capable, loving God who has a plan for our lives, keeps us, and strengthens us for His glory and our good.

**Series Overview** | Even though Scripture continually testifies to the greatness of our God, we can still question His power and majesty. Why? He has revealed and proven His character time and time again. So why do we question or doubt His power at work within us? In *Now To Him*, we will dig into God's incredible power to do more than all we can imagine, strengthen us for His purpose, and keep us from stumbling, which is why we should bring Him all the praise and glory that He deserves.

- **Session 1 - Who Is Able To Do More (Ephesians 3:20-21)** | We all want our life to count for something – to make some sort of difference with our actions and words. But do our plans align with God's? It can be difficult to surrender our will in exchange for God's, but when we align our plans with what God has for us, we quickly realize that His plan will always be greater than our own.
- **Session 2 - Who Is Able To Strengthen You (Romans 16:25-27)** | We've established that God has a plan and purpose for each of us. But sometimes, His will seems almost unattainable. How am I supposed to follow God's plan for my life when I can't even do the small things right? God has certainly called us to a big task, but He hasn't left us unequipped. Through our faith in Jesus, God is able to strengthen us to live in faithful obedience and humble submission to His will.
- **Session 3 - Who Is Able To Keep You From Stumbling (Jude 1:24-25)** | There are a ton of things that seek to trip us up on the path that God has prepared for us. And because we still live in a fallen world, we will still sin even though God has strengthened us for His plan. Yet, thankfully, it is not our sufficiency that keeps us in God's love. It's only God's grace and power that keep us from stumbling and present us blameless before Him!
- **Session 4 - Be The Glory (Romans 11:33-36)** | One common thread connects all of these passages – "to God be the glory." We all have things we glorify and chase after in search of love and satisfaction, but how should we respond to a God who is able to do all of these things we've discussed? We should respond by giving God all the glory and worship because of who He is and what He has done.

**Large Group Teaching Summary** | We all want our life to count for something – to make some sort of difference with our actions and words. But do our plans align with God's? It can be difficult to surrender our will in exchange for God's, but when we align our plans with what God has for us, we quickly realize that His plan will always be greater than our own.

**Key Takeaway** | We may have our own plans for our lives, but God is able to do far more than we could ever ask or imagine.

**Scripture Focus** | Ephesians 3:20-21

**What You May Need** | *Optional Illustration: Something Greater, Optional Illustration: Being Generous*

### I. Introduction

- A. Welcome to the first session of a new series we're starting called *Now To Him!* To kick off this series, let me start with a question.
  1. How much do you know about God? What are some attributes that the Bible lists for God? What are some names that the Bible calls Him? (***Have students shout out names and attributes***)
- B. Now, what do those things tell us about God? Is He good? Yes. Is He powerful? Yes. Does He love each of us? Yes! The Bible is packed with story after story, verse after verse detailing how incredible our God is. Even from the very beginning of all things, God was working all things out for our good and His glory. However, we can often lose sight of the magnificence of God and forget the promises He gives us in the Bible. Distractions in our everyday life, frustrations or disappointments, anxieties or fears, and so many other things can often rob us of our hope and joy in God. But over the next four sessions of this series, we're going to remind ourselves of how awesome and worthy to be praised our God is.
- C. To do that, we'll be looking at four different passages in the New Testament. Several of the New Testament letters have this phrase in them, "Now to Him who is able..." and we're going to look at each of those phrases because they each give us a glimpse at the character of God. We're going to see how each passage describes God, what God is capable of, and examples of His greatness.
- D. In this session, we're going to look at how big God is. And a step further, we're going to look at how big God's plans are for us.

### II. Tension

- A. We all have dreams, right? No, not those kind of dreams. The dreams you have about what you'll be or do in the future. The plans that motivate you to do what you're doing now. If I were to go around and ask everyone in this room what they want to be doing in 10+ years, you'd all have something to say. So whether you've given it much thought or not, you do have dreams. You've got plans for your life because we all want to make a difference. We all want to matter. We all want to achieve something great!
- B. But did you know that God has a plan for your life too? Yes, of course God plans for you to love Him and tell others about Him, but He also has a plan for literally every other thing in your life. Can you believe that? It can be really fun and exciting to plan our whole lives out exactly how we want them, but it's also really easy to make our own plans without ever consulting God and His plan. And we can have a lot of reasons behind that. Maybe we don't believe that God's plan is good. Maybe we think our plan is just better. Maybe we're afraid that we won't get what we want. Or maybe you just don't care. It feels risky to make our plans fall in line with God's, but when we do that, WE QUICKLY REALIZE THAT HIS PLAN IS FAR BETTER THAN OUR OWN. Let's take a look at Ephesians chapter 3 to see how that's true.

### III. Scripture

## Now To Him Sermon Series | Session 1: Who Is Able To Do More

---

- A. Read EPHESIANS 3:20-21
1. *“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.”*
- B. Paul is writing this to the Ephesian church, new believers and followers of Jesus, and is guiding them to know what’s right and true. Just before these two verses, Paul talks about how Gentiles, anyone who’s not Jewish, are now given access to God through Jesus. That God’s people are no longer just one nation but all nations. This may not sound like a big deal, but it is! Up until this point in history, the only people who were allowed to go into the innermost section of temples to worship God were Jewish men. Women and Gentiles could still worship God, but they had their own sections further outside that they were confined to. Paul even says that before now, Gentiles were alienated from God’s people, strangers to His promises, without hope, and without God. But NOW, THROUGH JESUS, ALL PEOPLE ARE GIVEN ACCESS TO AN INTIMATE, PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD.
- C. So it makes sense that Paul would share this great encouragement with them! God can do **IMMEASURABLY** more than all we ask or imagine. Any expectations we have, He blows them out of the water. Even the biggest dreams you could ever dream don’t compare to the work God can and will do in your life if you are faithful to His plan. Even if His plan doesn’t look like we want it to, His plan is always better than what we could ever come up with on our own.
- D. GOD IS ABLE TO DO MORE THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE
1. **Optional Illustration: Something Greater**
    - a) **NOTE: Share a personal story of when you prayed for something, and God did something even bigger. Or share a story of having hopes/expectations, then seeing something even greater done. The goal is to acknowledge that what we want or dream of isn’t always the greatest thing that could happen.**
    - b) **EXAMPLE:** I share the story of how I stepped into ministry. I had life plans and goals for my career, family, etc., and they did not include becoming a pastor or minister. But what God did in my heart and my life was something far greater than I could have ever imagined. Now I get to share the hope of Jesus every day as a career!
- E. Do you realize how big God is? He literally holds the entire universe together. If it weren’t for Him, everything would fall into disorder and chaos, but God is in all things and controls all things. And that same God who created the universe also created you. Luke 12:7 tells us that God even knows the number of hairs on your head. That same God who took time to carefully craft every detail of the world around us also took time to carefully craft us and His plan for us. We are so blessed to have such a thoughtful and powerful God! And we can be excited that what God has planned for us is *good*. Let’s look at a story from the early beginnings of the Church to see what God can and will do when we are faithful to His plan.
- F. Read ACTS 2:1-4; 40-47



1. *(1-4)“When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance...(40-47) And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, ‘Save yourselves from this crooked generation.’ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”*

### G. GOD WILL EQUIP YOU FOR MORE THAN YOU THOUGHT POSSIBLE

1. There are three things I want us to look at in this passage, and the first one is this. Look again at Acts 2:1-4. In the days after Jesus ascended to Heaven, His disciples and followers had a new mission: to go and spread the Gospel to the world. And as they’re gathered in prayer, coming up with a plan on what’s next, the Holy Spirit came to them and began working in them. Each of them was filled with the Spirit and began speaking in different tongues. People came from all over town to see what was happening. They were confused but also curious because even though they were from other countries and spoke different languages, they could all understand what the apostles were saying! God was already making the Gospel message comprehensible for all people in their own languages!
2. And this didn’t have anything to do with the apostles’ abilities. These followers of Jesus were ordinary men. Don’t forget that many of these guys were fishermen or craftsmen, not religious students or scholars. Yet God chose each of them and equipped them in ways that were beyond belief. Even in that moment, God rested His Spirit on them and equipped them to speak to the whole world about Jesus. They likely had no idea how they would fulfill Jesus’ command to spread the Gospel to the world, but God equipped them to do it!
3. We can often feel unequipped to do what God wants us to do. It can feel nerve-racking to share the Gospel with someone, especially when you don’t know them. But you can take comfort in and be encouraged that God will always equip you for where He is going to take you. Even when you don’t know where that is or how to make it happen, God is going to take care of the details every time! So with that being said, here’s the second thing I want us to see.

### H. GOD WILL DO MORE THAN YOU THOUGHT POSSIBLE

1. God is able to do more than you thought possible. We are often limited in our expectations or imaginations because we can’t comprehend the ways of God. But we can get a glimpse of His greatness by reading through the Bible or recalling our own life experiences where God moved in incredible ways. It’s

imperative that we remind ourselves that He can do bigger things than we could expect.

2. After thousands of people listened to the Gospel message and received the Holy Spirit, the opposition the disciples and other believers faced increased. Their every effort to share Jesus with others was often met with pushback. People called them all drunks and false prophets, and were confused by what was happening. They wanted to distract others from experiencing the same thing or joining what they thought was a destructive movement.
3. But the disciples' faithfulness to wait on the Holy Spirit to move and to preach the Gospel was rewarded with more and more people coming to know the saving power of Jesus. God did more than they could have expected, even in the face of opposition.

### I. GOD WANTS MORE

1. Finally, look back at Acts 2:42-47. It says the people devoted themselves to one another, being generous with their time and possessions. They sold what they had to raise money for those who were in need. They used their gifts to bless one another in cooking, praying, teaching, and more. They were in step with Christ and one another, living in harmony and celebrating this new hope they had found in Jesus.
2. **Optional Illustration: Being Generous**
  - a) **NOTE: Share a story of a time either you or someone you know was generous. The goal is to give ideas of ways to be generous with your time, money, and talents and to show how that glorifies God.**
3. **EXAMPLE:** I share a story about someone I know giving an extra money offering at Christmas. They had gotten some Christmas money around the holidays but couldn't decide what to spend it on. They finally felt compelled to donate that money to their church, and a little while later, they found out that their church budget was underfunded going into the end of the year. But at the last minute, it met the financial mark it needed to. The best part was that it was over by just a little more than the amount they gave. Because of my friend's generosity and willingness to offer God their finances, the church met its financial goals to be able to spread the Gospel.

- J. The best part about verses 42-47 is the last verse. They praised God for His goodness, and the Lord added to their number those who were being saved every day. Not only were these new Christians being generous with their lives, but they were also leading others to Jesus in big ways. And God blessed their efforts. He took their willingness and faithfulness and turned it into real life change for His glory.

## IV. Application

- A. So what does that mean for us? What should we do with this knowledge that God is able to do more than we can ask or imagine?
- B. TRUST IN GOD'S GOODNESS AND PLAN
  1. The first step we have to take is trusting that God has a plan for us and that His plan is good. As we talked about at the beginning, we all have our dreams and plans for our lives, and it can be hard to let go of those when God calls us to

something else. However, if God really is able to do more than we can ask or imagine, then wouldn't it be true that He has more planned for us than we could ask or imagine?

2. Romans 8:28 says, "for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose." When you love God and live according to His purpose for your life, not your own, then all things work together for your good and His glory! Even when His plan for your life isn't playing out like you think it should, you can have the confidence to remain faithful, knowing that His plan is going to be better than anything you could imagine.
3. God doesn't want your whole life to just be hard for you. He delights in your joy and freely offers you abundant joy in Jesus. So trust that God has a plan for you, trust that it is good, and live according to His purpose. And that leads me to the next thing we can learn from this passage.

### C. FOLLOW HIM

1. Right before Jesus ascended into heaven, He told His disciples to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the Holy Spirit. They waited for over a week before the Holy Spirit came upon them, as we saw in our passage for today. Because the disciples followed Jesus' command, the Holy Spirit was able to witness to thousands of people in one day. Can you imagine if the disciples had left Jerusalem after a few days? If they had not followed Jesus in faith?
2. When we decide to live by God's plan, we have to follow Him and His commands, even if they don't make sense. There are things God tells us to do that make no sense to the world around us. You will likely be made fun of, questioned, and ridiculed for following Jesus and His teachings, but what are you going to miss out on if you don't? We saw that by following Jesus' commands, the disciples got to participate in God's plan. Don't miss out on God's far more abundant life for you because you didn't follow Him in faith.

- D. You may not always understand the work that God is doing in your life. I imagine that the disciples of Jesus and the early church leaders couldn't fathom it either. But in their faithfulness to the calling Jesus placed on their lives, God took their efforts and did immeasurably more than what they could have imagined. When we are faithful to what God has tasked us with, He is faithful to do so much more than what even our biggest dreams could be. And that faithfulness always starts with giving Jesus our everything. God can do big things in and through our lives if we first give Jesus that number one spot in our hearts.

### V. **Gospel**

- A. That's something we all need to do. And the first step we can take to make Him a priority is to start a relationship with Him. Every person on this earth shares the same great need. We all need a Savior in our lives, and his name is Jesus.
- B. God's design, when He created us and our world, was absolutely perfect. His plan was perfect. But this thing called sin (essentially anything you think, say, or do that displeases God or goes against His commands) entered our world and created an impassable gap between Him and us. We have all sinned, and because of that, we are spiritually

separated from God. And since God is the only source of true life, spiritual separation from Him means we're spiritually dead.

- C. But God is a good God. And He didn't want us to be left alone, apart from Him. So in His infinite mercy, God the Father sent us a Savior named Jesus, God the Son. Jesus came to earth, lived a sinless life, and died a sacrificial death on our behalf to free us from the burden of sin. But the story doesn't end there! Jesus then rose again from the grave, conquering sin and death itself, and gave us access to a full life with God. All we have to do is confess that Jesus is God's promised Savior, acknowledge our need for Him, and repent of (turn away from/ask forgiveness for) the sin in our lives that separates us from God. It's by God's grace through our faith that we are forgiven of our sin and given eternal life in relationship with God. Then, we choose to live our life according to God's will and tell others about Him.
- D. If you've never made that decision for your own life, I encourage you to do it today. We have to choose to live for Jesus first if we are going to make Him our first priority every day. Then, as we grow in our faith, we can continue to give Jesus our focus every day.

### VI. Conclusion:

- A. We live in a world that is usually "me first." What are the things that I want? Who do I want to be? What do I want to accomplish? We have to remember to care about the things of God first and foremost. Does that mean we put down our own hopes and dreams? Not at all. Because when we follow after God's will and His plan, we realize that what He has is far greater than anything we could ask for or imagine. He's good at being our God, so we can trust Him with the details.
- B. Let's pray.

## Now To Him Sermon Series | Session 1: Who Is Able To Do More

---

**Series Overview** | Even though Scripture continually testifies to the greatness of our God, we can still question His power and majesty. Why? He has revealed and proven His character time and time again. So why do we question or doubt His power at work within us? In *Now To Him*, we will dig into God's incredible power to do more than all we can imagine, strengthen us for His purpose, and keep us from stumbling, which is why we should bring Him all the praise and glory that He deserves.

**Large Group Teaching Summary** | We all want our life to count for something – to make some sort of difference with our actions and words. But do our plans align with God's? It can be difficult to surrender our will in exchange for God's, but when we align our plans with what God has for us, we quickly realize that His plan will always be greater than our own.

**Key Takeaway** | We may have our own plans for our lives, but God is able to do far more than we could ever ask or imagine.

**Scripture Focus** | Ephesians 3:20-21

### Now To Him | Session 1 Discussion Questions

---

You can use these discussion questions to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go. These questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives.

#### Get Them Talking | An Optional Opening Question To Get Students Talking

1. If you could do anything you wanted to do, go anywhere you wanted to go, or be anything you wanted to be, what would you choose?

#### Discussion Questions

1. Read Ephesians 3:20-21. What does this teach you about God? What does it teach you about yourself?
2. Do you really believe that God's plan is far better than your own? Why or why not? What makes it hard to believe that?
3. Why do you think it's important that God has a plan for the whole universe? What does it say about Him that He holds everything together yet still knows the number of hairs on your head? How does that make you feel?
4. Why do you think it's hard to always believe that God's plan is good? When your life doesn't point to that being true, how can you know that God still has your best interests in mind?
5. In your own words, what does "God will equip you for more than you thought possible" mean? Why is it important to know that it's His power in us and not our own sufficiency?
6. What's holding you back from fully trusting God? Why do you think that's holding you back?
7. Do you think following Jesus affects how generous you are? Why or why not?
8. What do you think it practically means to follow Jesus? What makes this difficult for you?