



## Extraordinary Living – Message 2

### Announcements

- **Step 4 – Small Group Life** // Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 12:45pm// LCC Annex, SSC Offices and GCC. Discover how to grow in your relationship with God and others.
- **Mirror Mirror Small Groups** // Women, purchase your *Mirror Mirror Faith Devotional* (\$20) at the bookstore on the weekends or at LCC Connect Café (M-Th, 6pm-8pm). A FREE Discussion Guide will be available on and after Women's Night (September 27<sup>th</sup>).

### Warm-up

Who is your favorite Super Hero? Explain why.

### Word and Application

We are discussing the book of James, written to encourage believers in Christ who were drifting spiritually, finding themselves buried in all kinds of struggles.

When you surrender your life to Jesus and put your trust in the finished work of Christ, God the Holy Spirit comes to live on the inside of you. You become filled with life and His Spirit.

**Read 1 John 4:8.** What does this verse mean to you?

**Read John 7:5.** Why do you think those close to Jesus had difficulty believing in Him? How does experiencing and embracing the *extraordinary love of God* change your life?

# Four Principles for Walking in Extraordinary love

## ***Principle 1: Extraordinary Love Listens***

When we go through struggles, we tend to get into a fight-or-flight syndrome; we can get ramped up or over-adrenalized. This can cause us to become so self-focused that we began neglecting our relationships. These relationships often suffer as a result.

### **Read: James 1:19 & Romans 12:15.**

Some parts of the church are scattered geographically and drifting spiritually. Why is it so important to slow down and make time for small groups to fellowship?

## ***Principle 2: Extraordinary love speaks careful, healing words.***

Angry, careless words are often some of the enemy's greatest tools. Our life-giving, healing words can be a God-given gift.

### **Read: James 1:19-20 & Proverbs 15:1 & Proverbs 25:11.**

How much strife and discord could be eliminated from our lives if we make a decision to return painful words spoken to us with a gracious, loving reply? Share a time when your words turned a situation around for the better.

## ***Principle 3: Extraordinary Love Produces Obedience***

The first life that extraordinary love changes is our own life. Hearing, studying, memorizing verses benefits us little if we do not obey and apply God's Word.

### **Read: James 1:22-24.**

What do you think hinders us from putting God's Word into practice?

## ***Principle 4: Extraordinary Love Leads to Extraordinary Actions***

Extraordinary love is the definition of true religion; it's not just talk but action. Our works do not earn us salvation; they are the evidence of a relationship with Jesus Christ. How is being religious and being a Christian different?

### **Read: James 2:17 & James 1:26-27.**

How does an intimate relationship with Jesus change the motive behind our works?

Which of these four principles of walking in extraordinary love most resonates with you? This week, make a point to ask God to give you the power and wisdom to walk deeper in that principle.

## **Prayer**

Close in prayer by thanking God for depositing the fullness of His love inside of each and every one of us. Ask Him how you can put that love into action this week. Pray for specific needs of the group.