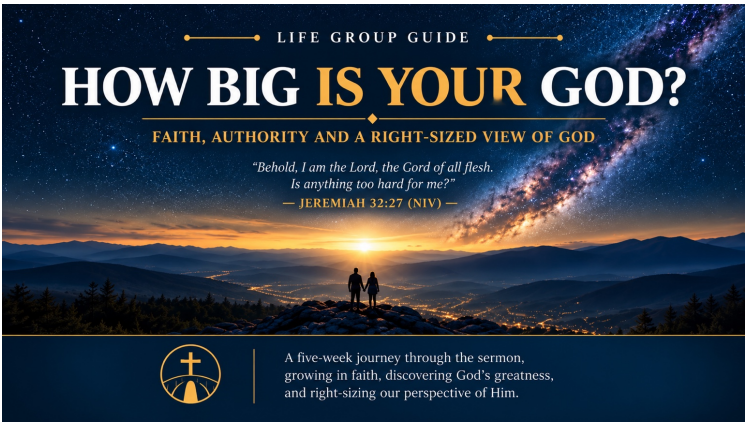


WELCOME

This week Tendayi Zhou led us from the faith of the centurion to a much bigger question: what have we settled in our hearts about the God we are trusting? Faith is not first a technique for getting an outcome. It grows as our view of God is right-sized - as we remember His authority, greatness, nearness and grace.

THE WORD BEFORE OUR WORDS

READ ALOUD TOGETHER

Have one or more people read Matthew 8:5-13 aloud. Listen before anyone comments. Let the centurion's confidence in Jesus' authority set the starting point for the conversation.

THE SERMON IN A FEW MINUTES

Tendayi began with the centurion in Matthew 8. The man's servant was suffering, but the striking feature of the encounter was not a method of prayer. It was what the centurion already believed about Jesus. He understood authority: Jesus did not need to be physically present; He only needed to speak.

Tendayi then widened the lens. Faith can become distorted when we focus on mechanisms, outcomes and formulas instead of the character and greatness of God. He reminded us that salvation itself is God's gift, not our achievement, and shared from his own business journey how faith is tested when circumstances do not unfold as expected.

The sermon finally moved into Job 38. God's questions to Job did not explain every detail of Job's suffering; they restored perspective. Tendayi's closing challenge was to right-size our perspective of God. When God becomes small in our thinking, our problems become enormous. When we see Him more truly, faith is relocated from our ability to control the outcome to His authority and character.

WHAT WE HEARD THIS WEEK

- Faith begins with who Jesus is, not with mastering the mechanics of an answer.
- The centurion recognised authority and trusted that Jesus' word was enough.
- God's willingness is not limited by the places we feel are too messy, compromised or complicated.
- Salvation and the life of faith are gifts of grace, not achievements we can boast about.
- Hard circumstances can expose whether our confidence is in God Himself or in a particular outcome.
- Job 38 calls us to recover perspective: God is greater than the frame through which we have been viewing our lives.

THREE CONVERSATIONS

Take your time. The aim is not to race through answers, but to let Scripture and Tendayi's sermon expose the picture of God that is shaping the way we pray, trust and respond.

1

WHAT HAVE I SETTLED ABOUT JESUS?

The centurion came with a desperate need, yet his confidence rested in Jesus' authority. He did not need to control the method. He believed Jesus' word was enough.

LET'S TALK: Where do we become more preoccupied with how God must answer than with who He is? What would it look like to bring a real need to Jesus while releasing our preferred mechanism or sequence?

FROM THE WORD: Matthew 8:5-13

2

HOW BIG IS THE GOD IN MY THINKING?

Tendayi challenged us to notice how easily circumstances can shrink our view of God. Job 38 restores scale by placing our questions inside the greatness and wisdom of the Creator.

LET'S TALK: What situation currently feels larger than God in practice, even if we would never say that aloud? How might a right-sized view of God change the way we carry that situation?

FROM THE WORD: Job 38:1-7, 31-35

3

FAITH WHEN THE OUTCOME IS NOT WHAT I EXPECTED

Tendayi's own testimony moved the sermon from theory into lived faith. Trust is tested when the answer is delayed, the business plan changes, or circumstances refuse to fit our expectations. Grace keeps bringing us back to God rather than to self-reliance.

LET'S TALK: Where have disappointment or uncertainty exposed what I was really trusting? How can we encourage one another to keep faith centred on God's character without pretending that difficult circumstances do not hurt?

FROM THE WORD: Ephesians 2:8-10; Job 38:1-4

LET'S PRAY TOGETHER

Invite several people to pray briefly. Keep the prayers rooted in the sermon rather than trying to cover everything.

A right-sized view of God: Ask God to enlarge our understanding of His authority, greatness, wisdom and nearness.

Faith beyond outcomes: Pray for people carrying unanswered questions, disappointments or situations they cannot control.

Grace rather than self-reliance: Thank God that salvation and the life of faith are His gift, and ask for humility to depend on Him.

Trust expressed in daily life: Ask for courage to act on what we know of God's character even before we can see the outcome.

TAKE-HOME THOUGHT

Faith does not begin with making the problem smaller.

It begins with seeing God more truly.

When I right-size my perspective of God, I can trust His authority even when I cannot control the outcome.

ONE LAST QUESTION FOR THE WEEK

What would change in the way I pray, decide, wait and respond this week if my first question was not, "How will this work out?" but, "Who is the God I am trusting?"

Suggested flow: Scripture aloud • sermon recap • three conversations • prayer • take-home thought