

52 Weeks  
of Power

WEEK 12





# Week 12



## ISAIAH 54:1-3

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“Sing, barren woman, you who never bore a child; burst into song, shout for joy, you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband,” says the Lord. “Enlarge the place of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back; lengthen your cords, strengthen your stakes. For you will spread out to the right and to the left; your descendants will dispossess nations and settle in their desolate cities.”



Throughout the New Testament, we see Jesus asking people He encounters to lay things down and turn away from lifestyles that prevent them from following Him. He told Peter to follow Him, leaving behind his job (Matthew 4:19). He asked the rich young ruler to leave behind his wealth and follow Him (Matthew 19:21). He told the woman caught in adultery to leave behind her life of sin (John 8:11).

Some obeyed and some did not. The ones who accepted Jesus' invitation to follow Him experienced lives full of adventure. Their eyes saw miracles no one had ever seen before. They went places they would have never have gone before. They walked closely with the Son of God, the One prophesied from the beginning of time. Their daily "yes" to Jesus impacted countless other lives. However, this did not come without sacrifice and, at times, pain. They had to wrestle with their humanity; they had to fight for surrender. They had to make peace with the things they did not understand. Even when it felt impossible, they had to activate new levels of trust in God. They had to become less, so Jesus could be come more.

We have been invited to participate in the big life God has created for each of us. We will also be asked to lay things down or walk away from things that are keeping us from the

fullness of God. The beauty of this invitation is that we get to choose: will we follow Him or stay where we are? This also requires us to trust that He knows what He is doing; if He is asking us to sacrifice, it's because He has something greater on the other side. If He is the author of our lives, there are chapters He is waiting for us to walk out. We can even trust that He will take the dark and broken chapters and make them something beautiful. In His endless kindness, He allows the work He is doing in each of our hearts to impact the lives of those we encounter.

God is in the business of expansion. He is passionate about each of us becoming who He originally designed us to be. When we submit to that, we will see Him work in and through our lives in a powerful way. We don't need to fear what is in store for us because when He holds us in the palm of His hand, fear has no place there.

As we walk through this week preparing for Easter, we can look at Jesus' life and rejoice. He was obedient to God, even unto death so you and I could live a life full of purpose, free from bondage and have a home with Him for eternity. He came so we could have hope for our futures. Choosing to follow Him is the most important decision we will ever make, a decision with eternal reward.

*REFLECT:*

1. In what areas of your life are you limiting the scope of God's power?
2. A prayer for "more" is also an invitation for us to intentionally make room. What clutter is in your heart that is crowding out the work God wants to do? What do you need to release?
3. What intentional step do you sense that God is asking you to take in order to continue to step into the greatness He has for you?

*PRAYER:*

Father, I thank You for calling me into a season of stretching and widening. Would You show me the places in my life and in my heart that are keeping You small? Would you give me the strength to walk away from toxic relationships and habits? Would You give me the self control to not return to things that previously kept me bound? I am saying "yes" to You and what You have for my life. I know Your ways are higher than mine, and You have a plan and purpose for my life that is good. I ask that You establish all my steps and lead me to the path you have created for me in this season. In Jesus' name. Amen.