GOD IS ABLE, Yesterday, Today, and Always

FCC Life Group Discussion Notes
Matthew Rogers Preaching
10-25-26

Opening Prayer

- Thank God for FCC's 175-year history and for the progress of the GOD IS ABLE initiative.
- Ask God to help the group clearly display welcoming signs that point people to Jesus.

Ice Breaker

What is one "sign" (literal or figurative) you have seen that made you feel especially welcomed—or unwelcome—somewhere?

Key Scripture

Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Sermon Summary

On FCC's 175th anniversary and the one-year mark of the GOD IS ABLE initiative, the message highlights the "signs" many people see when they look at churches and contrasts them with the signs FCC wants to display: Come As You Are, Grace Happens, We Love Your Kids, and You Matter to God. The sermon calls the church to keep living out these invitations as God continues to work through His people.

Discussion Point 1: Come As You Are

Scripture: Matthew 11:28 (NLT) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

Then Jesus said, "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

Point Summary:

Many people sense a church sign that says "When You're Ready, We're Here." FCC wants the opposite message—Come As You Are—echoing God's open invitation without requiring people to clean up, dress up, or learn up first.

Discussion Questions:

1. When have you felt the pressure of a "when you're ready" message, either from a church or another group?
2. How can we practically help others feel they can come exactly as they are?

Discussion Point 2: Grace Happens

Scripture: Romans 5:20 (NIV) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

The law was brought in so that the trespass might increase. But where sin increased, grace increased all the more.

Point Summary:

Another common sign people read is "You've Made Too Many Mistakes for Us." FCC chooses instead to display "Grace Happens," remembering that the church is filled with people who have received second chances and that no one has made too many mistakes for God.

Discussion Questions:

1. What helps you remember that grace is available even after repeated failures?
2. How can our group make "grace happens" visible to someone who feels they don't belong?

Discussion Point 3: You Matter to God

Scripture: John 3:17 (The Message) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again.

Point Summary:

Some people stay away thinking the roof isn't strong enough for them or that the church has nothing for their family. FCC counters with "We Love Your Kids" and "You Matter to God," affirming that every person and every family is valued and that God is for them.

Discussion Questions:

1. What practical ways can we show families and individuals that they matter here?
2. How does remembering "you matter to God" change the way we treat people who feel far from church?

Wrap-Up

The sermon ties these signs together under the truth of Ephesians 3:20-21: *God is able to do immeasurably more than we ask or imagine.* As FCC celebrates its history and continues the GOD IS ABLE work, the invitation remains the same—come as you are, because grace happens, kids are loved, and every person matters to God.

Challenge

Take a glass tile (or simply choose one person) and commit to pray daily for the next six weeks for someone who needs to know God is able. Return the tile or share an update on Sunday, December 6 (grand opening Sunday), as part of the GOD IS ABLE mosaic and ongoing mission.

Closing Prayer

- Thank God that He is able to do more than we can ask or imagine.
- Ask for courage to live out the signs of welcome in daily life and in our community.
- Pray for the people represented by the tiles and for the continued work of the GOD IS ABLE project.

Handout

GOD IS ABLE Life Group Handout

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Signs We Want to Display

1. Come As You Are → One person I can invite this week: _____
2. Grace Happens → One area where I need to extend or receive grace: _____
3. We Love Your Kids / You Matter to God → One practical way I can show value to a family or individual: _____

My Tile / Prayer Focus
Person I'm praying for: _____
Specific need or hope: _____

Memory Verse to Carry
Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV) – Write it out or paraphrase it in your own words:

Next Step
I will carry my tile/prayer focus until December 6 and return it as part of the mosaic.
Yes / Already done / Need help remembering

Sources used for these notes:

- Sermon transcript and notes provided in the user query (First Christian Church, Warsaw, IN – "GOD IS ABLE, Yesterday, Today, and Always").
- Bible text quotations verified from public sources: Ephesians 3:20-21 (NIV), Matthew 11:28 (NLT), Romans 5:20 (NIV), John 3:17 (The Message), and supporting references matching the versions cited in the sermon.