

# Growth

Week 3

**This week in summary**

<u>Growth</u>		<u>WEEK 3</u>
Power, Ambassadors	<i>Matt 8</i>	<i>Day 1</i>
Jesus the Powerful	<i>Matt 9</i>	<i>Day 2</i>
Grace	<i>Matt 10</i>	<i>Day 3</i>
My Work Team	<i>Matt 8-9</i>	<i>Day 4</i>
My Values	<i>Matt 10</i>	<i>Day 5</i>

**Day 1**

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**Power****A summary of Matt 8&9**

These chapters are a snapshot of the kind of power Jesus has. Power to heal disease, power over the natural world, power over the spiritual world, power over death; Jesus has the power to forgive sins against God.

How does Jesus use his power?

Jesus only uses his power to do the will of the God.

He gives power to his disciples.

He never uses his power for himself.

**Reflection:**

What kind of abilities do you have? (Skills, talents, finances, respect.) Do you use your 'powers' like Jesus does? – to do the will of God, giving to others and never for your own advancement? Do you know people that use their abilities the way Jesus uses his power?

## Ambassadors

### A summary of Matt 10

Now that Jesus has demonstrated what kind of power his kingdom wields he sends out messengers to invite to his fellow countrymen to join his Kingdom. Consider this an invitation to you as well.

“The Kingdom of Heaven is here, will you join?”

Jesus gave his messengers the same power he just demonstrated in chapters 8&9. They were given power to heal, power over nature and power over the supernatural. The messengers weren't just sent out to talk about the Kingdom, they were demonstrating what the kingdom is all about.

**Reading Today:** Matthew 8

10-15 minutes

Day 2

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## Jesus the Powerful

Consider some of Jesus' power recorded by history:

- Turned over 150 gallons of water to wine at a wedding
- Healed a Nobleman's son
- Helped fishermen make the catch of their lives.
- Healed a man with leprosy
- Healed a soldier's servant
- Raised to life a widow's son \*
- Healed a man possessed by a daemon
- Healed Peter's mother-in-law
- Healed a paralyzed man
- Healed a crippled man
- Healed a man with withered hand
- Healed a Blind man possessed by a demon
- Calmed a fierce storm while at sea
- Healed two men possessed by daemons
- Raised to life Jairus' daughter
- Healed a woman with an Issue of blood\*
- Restored sight to Two blind men
- Healed a man possessed by a demon, unable to speak
- Fed Five thousand people using the a boy's lunch
- Walked on the sea
- Healed a foreign woman's daughter
- Healed a man deaf and unable to speak
- Fed 4,000 people with seven loaves and a few small fish
- Restored sight to a blind men
- Healed a boy possessed by a suicidal daemon
- Miraculously provided tax money
- Healed the eyes of one born blind
- Healed a woman sick for 18 years and unable to stand

- Healed a man with Dropsy
- Healed ten lepers
- Raised to life Lazarus after three days
- Restored sight to two blind beggars
- Restored the ear of a soldier attempting to arrest him
- Ended the tyranny of death by returning to life three days after his public execution

I'd like to bring special attention to two of his healings that go beyond the physical.

Jesus raised a widow's son to life, certainly this was a gift for the son, but even more so for the widow. She lived in a male dominated society where she didn't even have the right to represent herself in court. With the death of her son this widow was steps away from begging by the side of the road. Jesus returned her son to life. He was this widow's last living male relative to care for her in her twilight years and carry on her family's honor after she passed away. With just a touch, Jesus gave the widow her son, her provision and her legacy.

Secondly there was a woman who'd been bleeding constantly for twelve years. Because of the nature of her disease she would have been despised by her society. Secretly she was able to touch the corner of Jesus' sleeve and be healed. Jesus immediately stopped everything and the crowd that was with him. He looked squarely at the woman and announced to the crowd that she is now healed. He restored her socially, because it's not enough to just heal the body.

**Reading Today:** Matthew 9

10-15 minutes

Day 3

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**Grace**

As an adult the world's economy is based on buying, selling and trading. Growing up as a kid my economy was: ask dad and he gives.

This is God's economy. Not an exchange - He doesn't make deals. He gives gifts. We can't work harder for more. He gives to us freely and simply. The gifts shape us. The word for God's economy is *grace*.

**Grace** – God does for us what we can't do, as a gift that empowers us to overcome.

As a definition grace has four parts:

- Happy. To be delighted.
- a common greeting in the ancient world: "**Grace to you**" was a way of saying "May you be **happy**" or "I'm **delighted** to be with you."
- Grace is a **gift**. Not earned. You can't work for it. You can't be entitled to it. It is given freely.
- **Empowerment**. Increase in power, energy or ability. You are now stronger and more capable.

All together grace could be understood as:

*God meets us with a gift that strengthens and delights.*

Welcome to God's economy.

**Reading Today:** Matthew 10

10-15 minutes

Day 4

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**Fellow Laborers**

Jesus has a way of opening our eyes to the people around us. He reverses our years of learning to judge someone's value and dismiss the people that don't seem to be worth our time. Consider the people at work; some you get along with, some not so well, some you barely know and some you wouldn't consider part of your work team. Maybe they cook and you teach, or you clean and they make big important decisions. Whatever the separation, they are all serving the same company mission no matter if it's leading, building, researching or cleaning we're all on the same team. God has a plan for your work team.

**Prayers for my work team:**

God help me to see my co-workers the way you do.  
Help me respect my co-workers beyond what is expected.  
God, Help me make choices that honor you, my team and myself.  
Feel free to pray for your family in your own words. As always pray honestly about what's in your heart.

**Reading Today:** Matthew 8-9

10-15 minutes

Day 5

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## My Values

Look over the **Values** listed on the following pages. This list represents the values that many people hold in life. As you look over this list you should indicate by each 'value', how you see this personally applying to you by number:

- 4 Always value
- 3 Usually value
- 2 Sometimes value
- 1 Rarely value
- 0 Never value

Look over the thing you have indicated with a '3' or '4' and list the top 6, your **most** important values.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

**Reading Today:** Matthew 10

10-15 minutes



## Values List

_____	<b>Aesthetics</b>	Studying and appreciating the beauty of things, ideas etc
_____	<b>Affiliation</b>	Being part of a company, organization or work team that accepts me as a team member
_____	<b>Artistic</b>	Produce work with aesthetic value; engage in creative work in any of several art forms
_____	<b>Challenging Problems</b>	Opportunity to stretch myself with new, unique or difficult issues to resolve
_____	<b>Change and Variety</b>	Work responsibilities and activities which frequently change in their content or setting
_____	<b>Competition</b>	Engage in activities which pit my abilities against others where there are clear win and lose outcomes.
_____	<b>Creative Expressions</b>	Opportunity to express in writing or verbally my ideas, reactions and observations
_____	<b>Decision Making</b>	Power to decide courses of action, policies, etc
_____	<b>Excitement</b>	Experience frequent or a high degree of excitement in the course of my work
_____	<b>Exercise Competence</b>	The opportunity to work in those areas in which I feel I have talents and can excel
_____	<b>Fast Pace</b>	Work must be done rapidly and there is constantly a lot of activity
_____	<b>Friendship</b>	Develop close personal relationships with people as a result of my work activities
_____	<b>Help Society</b>	Contribute to the betterment of the world or community I live in

_____	<b>Helping Others</b>	Providing services or assistance to other people in a direct way, either individually or in a small group
_____	<b>High Earning</b>	Anticipated financial rewards that will allow me to purchase those things I consider essential and the luxuries of life I wish
_____	<b>Independence</b>	Determining the nature of my work without significant direction from others; setting my own direction
_____	<b>Influencing People</b>	Change attitudes or modify opinions in others to do or purchase something
_____	<b>Job Tranquility</b>	Avoid work related pressures and the "Rat Race"
_____	<b>Knowledge</b>	Spend time in pursuit of knowledge, truth and understanding
_____	<b>Leadership</b>	Opportunity to lead others through direction, influence and motivation
_____	<b>Leisure</b>	Having enough time for leisure pursuits; no significant overtime required
_____	<b>Location</b>	Live in a town or geographical area which suits my lifestyle
_____	<b>Mental Stimulation</b>	Work which requires that I constantly use my mind and continue to develop my intellect
_____	<b>Moral Fulfillment</b>	Feel that my work is contributing to a set of moral standards which I feel are very important
_____	<b>Physical Challenge</b>	A job that makes physical demands which I find rewarding
_____	<b>Power and Authority</b>	Ability to control the work activities and rewards for others

_____	<b>Precision Work</b>	Work in situations which there is little tolerance for error
_____	<b>Pressure</b>	Situations where time pressure is prevalent or the quality of my work is judged critically by supervisors, customers or others.
_____	<b>Public Contact</b>	Have a lot of day-to-day interaction with people
_____	<b>Recognition</b>	Rewards or public acknowledgment for the quality of my work
_____	<b>Responsibility</b>	Opportunity for decision making and control over my work domain; chance to oversee projects or personnel
_____	<b>Security</b>	Assurance of keeping my job and a reasonable financial reward
_____	<b>Stability</b>	Have a work routine and job duties that are largely predictable and not likely to change over a long period of time.
_____	<b>Status</b>	A position of respect which my friends, family and community values
_____	<b>Time Freedom</b>	Have work responsibilities which I can pursue according to my own schedule; no specific work hours required
_____	<b>Work Alone</b>	Do projects by myself, without and significant amount of contact with others
_____	<b>Work on the Frontier of Knowledge</b>	Work in one of the physical sciences or human research; work in a company that is technically excellent and striving for product advances
_____	<b>Working with Others</b>	Have close working relationships with a group; work as a team toward common goals