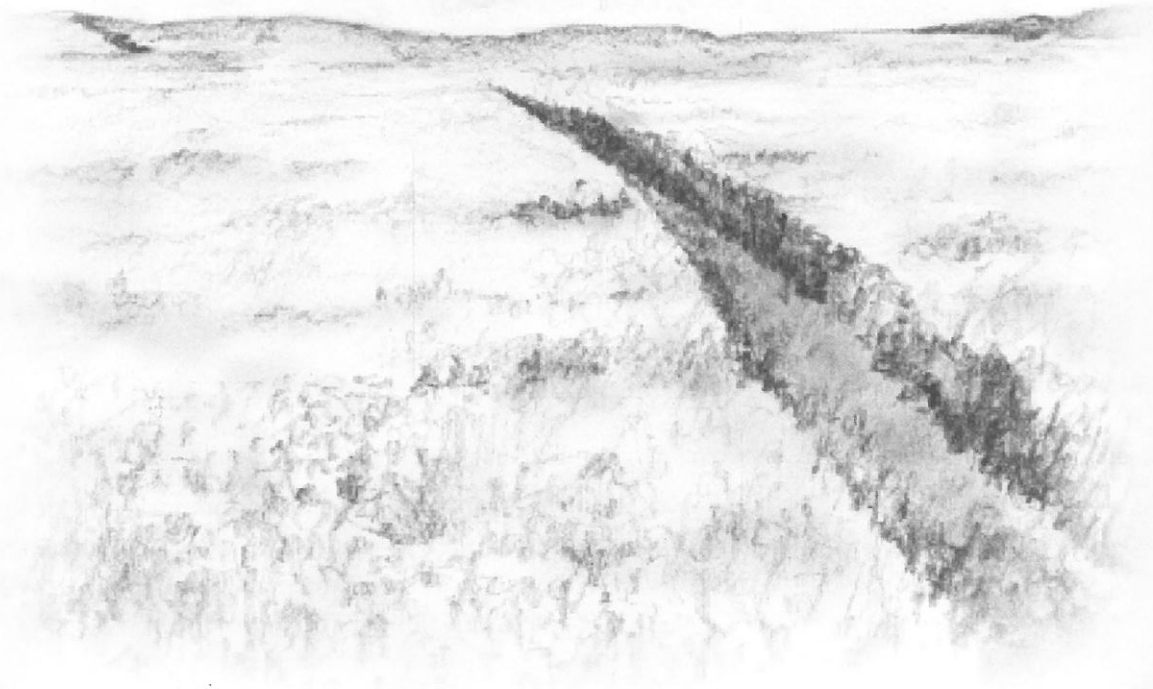


WOMEN OPENING THE WORD

IMMEASURABLY MORE

CASANDRA MARTIN



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Immeasurably More

*“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.” – Ephesians 3:20-21, NIV 1984*

You are God’s delight and His great desire. He has a dream for you that begins today and stretches into eternity. It is a plan for you to live so abundantly, so fully, so deeply in Him that your life overflows with His Immeasurably More. Immeasurably More is a boundary marker. It describes the extent to which God will go to bring you home, the limits of His love for you, the amount of power He is able to pour into your life, and the grace with which He is willing to fill you. Immeasurably More is also a picture of the life He wants you to live in Him – how far He wants you to stretch, how big He longs for you to dream, and how deep He desires for you to travel into His heart.

Too often we settle for less than God’s Immeasurably More. The Book of Ephesians challenges us to set our sights higher, walk more confidently, pray more fervently, and kneel more humbly before a God whose greatest delight is to give us Immeasurably More of Himself.

Welcome to WOW!

Women Opening the Word is a Bible study series designed to help women more richly and fully experience the presence of God. Meeting God in the pages of a WOW study opens your eyes to the wonder of God’s love and the purpose of living deeply in His presence. Transformation is at the heart of studying the Bible. God wants you to be transformed into His likeness – to look like Jesus. The WOW Bible studies help you to answer the call to live as changed women –cross-shaped, resurrection-empowered, faith-driven, Christ-exalting women.

Whether you use the study in a classroom, small group setting, or in your personal quiet time, WOW focuses on answering three challenges every woman who longs to live closer to God faces: **Commitment** – WOW’s four-day format is designed to help you find the time to develop the discipline of daily Bible study. **Confidence** – At times, Bible study seems intimidating and overwhelming. WOW guides you on a walk through Scripture to seek God’s face and experience His transformation as you connect God’s truth directly with your life. **Creativity** – When studying the Bible feels stale, the WOW studies provide refreshing and innovative ways to encounter God through a variety of study methods, insights, and the following special features:

Day 1 Each lesson is broken into four parts. As you begin a lesson, start with Day 1. Work through the first day – open your Bible, enjoy the time with God, and experience the life-changing lessons He has planned for you. Tomorrow, study Day 2 and so forth. The WOW studies are designed this way to help you spend daily time deep in the presence of God. There are many lessons, treasures, and blessings God wants to pour into you as you spend time with Him in His Word. Spreading out each lesson over four days provides the best opportunity for you to absorb as much richness as you can from your time with God.



Open Your Bible! – When you see this symbol, it indicates an opportunity to open your Bible and meet God in its pages. God speaks to you through His Word. He longs for you to take off your sandals and draw near to Him on holy ground. Choose an accurate, reliable, and readable translation. This study specifically refers to the ESV – English Standard Version. You are welcome to use any translation you prefer. The important thing is to open your Bible and prepare your heart to meet your amazing God.



Compass Question – The Compass symbol invites you to slow down and answer a question that speaks directly to your heart, pointing it to the truths that move you toward transformation. They are thought questions. Everyone’s answers will be personal and unique. They are designed to help God’s Word speak directly to your life.



To the Heart – These are messages from my heart to yours. These special thoughts have one purpose: to help you experience the glorious richness of God’s love in a personal and intimate way.



Choose a Home for Your Heart – Living in God’s Immeasurably More always begins with a choice. Where will I live? What path will I walk? At the end of Days 2 and 4, there are places for you to stop and do a location check. The location check is designed to help you examine your heart in the light of the lessons God reveals through our walk through Ephesians. *It’ll Do Lane* helps define the ways the world encourages you to settle for less than God’s best. *Immeasurably More* focuses your attention on what it means to live within the abundant blessings of His presence. **Choose a Home for Your Heart** is the location test. Here you will find a question or activity meant to help you look deeply at your own heart in the light of God’s grace and His desire for you. Your answers will help reveal where God wants to work in your life, places that require surrender, and obstacles that are keeping you from living the Immeasurably More life Jesus wants to give you.

Leading a WOW Study

Leading a WOW study is primarily about opening the door to the presence of God and helping the people with you to make the journey. You already have the tools you need – a willing and loving heart, prayer, your Bible, the help of the Holy Spirit, and your WOW book.

There are as many different ways to effectively use a WOW study as there are people excited about meeting God in His Word. The WOW studies are designed to be flexible and allow you to adapt the study to your individual and group needs. Be creative! The WOW studies are tools meant to help you dig deeply into God's Word. Use them in the way that best helps you meet God, experience the depth of His love, and be transformed into the likeness of His Son.

If you are leading a WOW study in a **45-minute Bible class format** –

Commit to spending time in prayer and study. Pray for the women in your group. Ask God to create an environment among your women that will allow Him full access to every heart. As you study, remember to honor the truth that you are meeting God in the pages of His Word. Let His love touch you first; then prepare to share that love with others. Leaders always receive deep blessings from the time spent preparing to share God's Word with others.

Divide each lesson into two parts. Using the Day 1-4 markers, ask your class to study Days 1 and 2 on week one, Days 3 and 4 on week two, and so forth. There is enough material in each two-day block to meet the needs of your class time.

Use the Choose a Home for Your Heart chart at the end of Days 2 and 4 to help you focus on the main points of the lesson. This is the one truth with which you want the class to walk away at the end of your time together. Use them to guide your preparation and the direction of the class.

Allow the class to be discussion-oriented. The Compass Questions are designed to open the door for sharing thoughts, feelings, questions, and perspectives. It often takes time for women to open their hearts and be transparent. Be patient and loving. This time of discussion will help each woman plant the truth of God's Word deeply into their heart.

Keep your eyes open for the ways God is working among you. Take special note of the many ways God is blessing your time together as a group of women studying His Word. Let that awareness be a springboard for praise, thanksgiving, and renewed surrender.

If you are leading a WOW study in a **90-minute women's Bible study format** –

Commit to spending time in prayer and study. Pray for the women in your group. Ask God to create an environment among your women that will allow Him full access to every heart. As

you study, remember to honor the truth that you are meeting God in the pages of His Word. Let His love touch you first; then prepare to share that love with others. Leaders always receive deep blessings from the time spent preparing to share God's Word with others.

Do one lesson per week, or divide the lesson into two pieces. This depends on your schedule and the amount of time your women want to devote to the study. Either way, there will be enough material to meet your needs.

Use the Choose a Home for Your Heart chart at the end of Days 2 and 4 to help you focus on the main points of the lesson. These are the truths with which you want the class to walk away at the end of your time together. Use them to guide your preparation and the direction of the class.

Allow the class to be discussion-oriented. The Compass Questions are designed to open the door for sharing thoughts, feelings, questions, and perspectives. It often takes time for women to open their hearts and be transparent. Be patient and loving. This time of discussion will help each woman plant the truth of God's Word deeply into their heart.

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If you are using a WOW study for **personal study**—

Commit to spending time in prayer as you study. Prayer is indispensable to preparing your heart to meet God. Prayer and study go hand-in-hand and allow your heart to respond to the truths and direction God is teaching you.

Use the Day markers to help guide you in daily Bible study. As you begin a lesson, begin with Day 1. Work through the first day – open your Bible, enjoy the time with God, and experience the life-changing lessons He has planned for you. Tomorrow, study Day 2 and so forth. The WOW study is designed this way to help you spend daily time deep in the presence of God.

Use the Choose a Home for Your Heart chart at the end of Days 2 and 4. Open your heart to the deep transformation God wants to work in your life.

Keep your eyes open for the ways God is working in you. Take special note of the many ways God is blessing your time with Him. Let that awareness be a springboard for praise, thanksgiving, and renewed surrender.

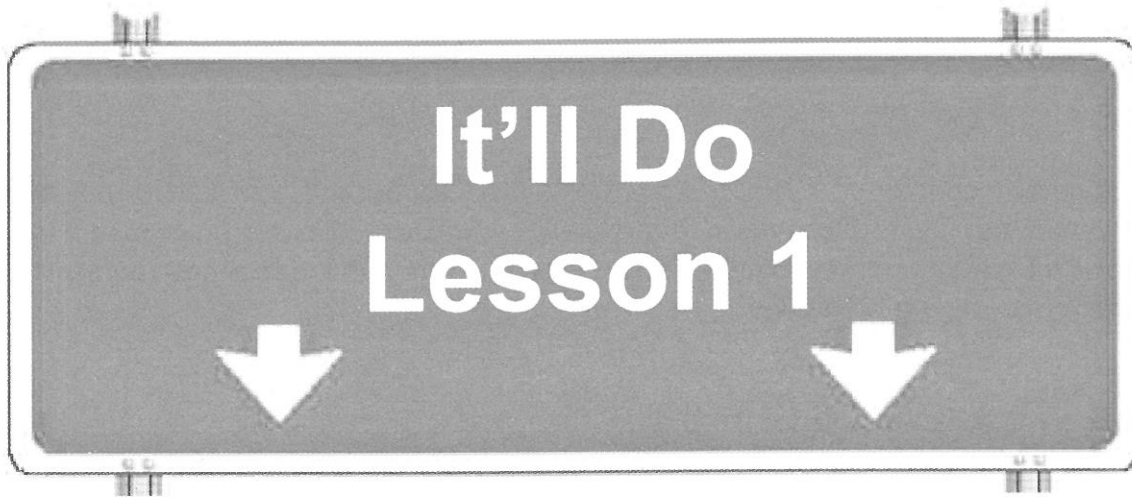
Joy for the Journey

May God richly bless you as you spend this time in His Word. He has so many treasures to share with you because you are the treasure of His heart. Know that as you study, you are covered with prayer and thanksgiving. My prayer is that you will be able to see God's words fully take shape in your life as you commit your heart to living in His Immeasurably More.

Cassandra

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Welcome to WOW! We have such an exciting journey ahead of us. God has more in mind for you than you can possibly imagine for yourself. He longs to meet you in the pages of His Word. He is passionate about showing you His heart. He yearns for you to throw open the door of your soul and allow Him full access to every part of who you are. As you begin today, pray for open eyes to see the Immeasurably More He has in store for you. Pray for courage to walk in the bigger life He has planned for you. Pray for your heart to be ready to embrace the joy you are about to encounter, the peace you are about to experience, and the fullness you are about to enjoy.

Day 1

I was driving through central Texas. It was a hot summer day. All of the kids I was driving back from a VBS mission trip were asleep in the back of the van. That is when I saw the small street that intersected the road on which I was traveling. I glanced at the street sign, and started to laugh. The name of the road was It'll Do Lane.

I imagined the path that led someone to name the place where they live "It'll Do Lane." Tired and weary, they looked around, said, "It'll do" and decided to stop. This was good enough, far enough, and satisfying enough to make a place to plant a family and spend a lifetime. They built a life on It'll Do Lane. They raised their children in the shadow of its sign. They defined their dreams, stretched their imagination, and decided to be satisfied with It'll Do.

Too many of us live on It'll Do Lane.

Immeasurably More

We tend to settle for “good enough” lives. We make It’ll Do the residence of our hearts, hopes, and dreams. As long as there is a little more happiness than sorrow, pleasure than pain, blessings than burdens, and satisfaction than sacrifice, we consider ourselves as coming out ahead in the game of life.

But God never meant for us to live “good enough” lives. He doesn’t want It’ll Do Lane to be the address of our hearts. Deep down inside, we know it. Our souls were never meant to settle for It’ll Do. The good enough life feels a little empty, and at the strangest moments we catch ourselves longing for more.



Why do you think we settle for It’ll Do?

God has a different address in mind for you. How does Abundance Avenue sound? Wouldn’t you rather live on Blessing Boulevard or Wonderful Way? He wants you to take up residence at the intersection of Immeasurably More and Infinite Possibilities.

His plan has always been for us to experience abundant, rich, overflowing lives. Lives filled with wonder, joy, confidence, and peace.



This is the Immeasurably More God has in mind for you. Lives so defined by His presence, so immersed in His power, and so soaked in His grace that we draw the eyes of those around us to the cross.

Write Ephesians 3:20.

Here is a promise that speaks to the deep longings of our hearts. Deep down, we know that we are not meant to settle for It’ll Do. *Good enough* are words that our hearts accept because the possibility of anything more seems impossible, scary, or too painful to dream about any longer.

The words embedded in the Ephesian letter contain the assurance that Immeasurably More is not only possible, but meant just for us.

"Now to him who is able..." (NIV). Here is the key to the Immeasurably More life. God is able. Our faith has to find its footing in the deep truth that He is able. He is able to love us like He tells us He does. He is able to forgive us with the grace He promises us. He is able to keep His word, honor His holiness, and offer transformation to hearts that desperately need His touch.



Why is it so important that we understand that God is able?

If God is able, then the door of possibility is thrown wide open. Understanding that God is able is the foundation on which our faith must rest. We must believe that He is powerful enough, faithful enough, wise enough, good enough, holy enough, loving enough, and enduring enough to accomplish all that He has set before us. Many of our doubts, reservations, and questions find their roots in the way that we limit or put boundaries on the truth that God is able.

"to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine..." (NIV). When we embrace the reality that God is able, it pushes back the boundaries of what is possible. My boundaries are not set by the limits of my own strength, wisdom, or resources. They are set in the infinite goodness and matchless love of God. What I ask for is just the starting line. What I can imagine is just the beginning of the yardstick, the zero on the scale, and the driveway from which we begin our journey. Too often, we settle for flying paper planes while God intends for us to travel with Him into the stars.



Look up the word *immeasurably* in the dictionary. How does that definition help you understand the life God has in mind for you?

"according to his power that is at work within us" (NIV). This is the most exciting news of all. His power is at work in you. Here is the fuel that drives the Immeasurably More life He wants to give us. Here is the strength that will break through the obstacles, tear down the fences, and remove the barriers that keep us on It'll Do Lane. His power is moving, transforming, creating, implementing, and building His dream within your heart. It might seem strange to think that God is at work within you as you do the dishes, go to work, answer the phone, or read your email, but He is. He uses every moment, every opportunity, and every situation to offer you the Immeasurably More life.

Immeasurably More

 Read Romans 8:28. How does this passage outline the way God's power is at work in you?

Day 2

Ephesians is our guidebook into the Immeasurably More life. In its pages, we will be able to capture a picture of the Immeasurably More that God offers us, see the good enough for which we often settle, and discover the pathway to leaving It'll Do behind and embracing the rich abundance for which we were made.

As we approach the Book of Ephesians, we need to stop and look at some barriers that tend to get in the way of embracing the Immeasurably More life. Barriers can be anything that prevents our movement into the will and purpose of God. The barriers that keep us on It'll Do Lane tend to be set in our minds rather than our circumstances. Changing how we see can go a long way to changing how far we can go.



What questions or barriers do you think might be keeping you from living the Immeasurably More life?

Barrier #1 – I don't know what the Immeasurably More life looks like.

It is hard to know where you are going if you don't have a destination in mind. We end up traveling in circles, feeling like we are wandering aimlessly through our days. Any motion seems better than no movement at all, so we keep taking one more step in the hope that it is leading us in the right direction.

God wants you to walk with purpose. His will for you lays out a map that leads directly into the Immeasurably More life. The world holds up a lot of pictures of what a full, abundant, satisfying life should look like – lots of money, glamorous beauty, big houses filled with expensive things, a powerful job, influential friends, days filled with travel to exotic places, and a carefree, all-about-me attitude. We are bombarded with images of the life the world wants us to pursue, and we let those images define our peace, shape our contentment, direct our choices, and order our priorities. But God has something so much better in mind for you.

The Immeasurably More life is not about the things you have, the people you know, the job you hold, or the balance of your bank account. You can live the Immeasurably More life in a one-bedroom apartment, a big house, a tent by the creek, or a high-rise building. You can be everything God calls you to be working as a clerk at the grocery store, a teacher, an executive, a nurse, a stay-at-home mom, a secretary, a homemaker, or a captain of industry.



The Immeasurably More life is not about the stuff you have, but about the stuff of which you are made. It is about the stuff we put into our hearts, the stuff with which we fill our minds, and the stuff we allow to define our souls.

God's power is at work in you with a specific purpose – to change your stuff. He wants to throw out the guilty, shame-laden, sin-encrusted stuff and fill you with Jesus. That transformation is at the heart of the Immeasurably More life.



How is Jesus the best picture of God's Immeasurably More?

Barrier #2 – I don't know if God's Immeasurably More is for me.

Okay, God has an Immeasurably More plan for His people. It probably works great for those super-saints who have it all together, but not people like me. I struggle with sin, wrestle with doubt, and walk far too often in my own desires. I don't know enough about the Bible. My prayers feel a little stale, and I am not nearly as talented as the woman who sits three pews over. Honestly, I am just not good enough, holy enough, wise enough, or spiritual enough to change where I live. Besides, I am barely hanging on where I am. If I can't get it together on It'll Do Lane, how will I ever be able to live in God's Immeasurably More?

Jesus came to crucify the myth that you weren't meant for the Immeasurably More life. God couldn't imagine an eternity without you, so He stepped out of glory into a world of darkness in order to bring you home. He loves you with an intensity that will take your breath away. His power is at work within you to shatter the It'll Do barriers that keep you from living within His Immeasurably More.



Read Matthew 17:20-21. What is the key to living a life beyond what you can ask or imagine?

Immeasurably More

The key word here is *faith*. Faith provides the glasses that let you imagine that the Immeasurably More life can be yours. Faith invests itself in the truth that God is able and willing to work in the lives of people He loves. Even people who struggle with sin. Even people who are barely getting by. Even people with faith as small as the tiniest seed. Even people like me.

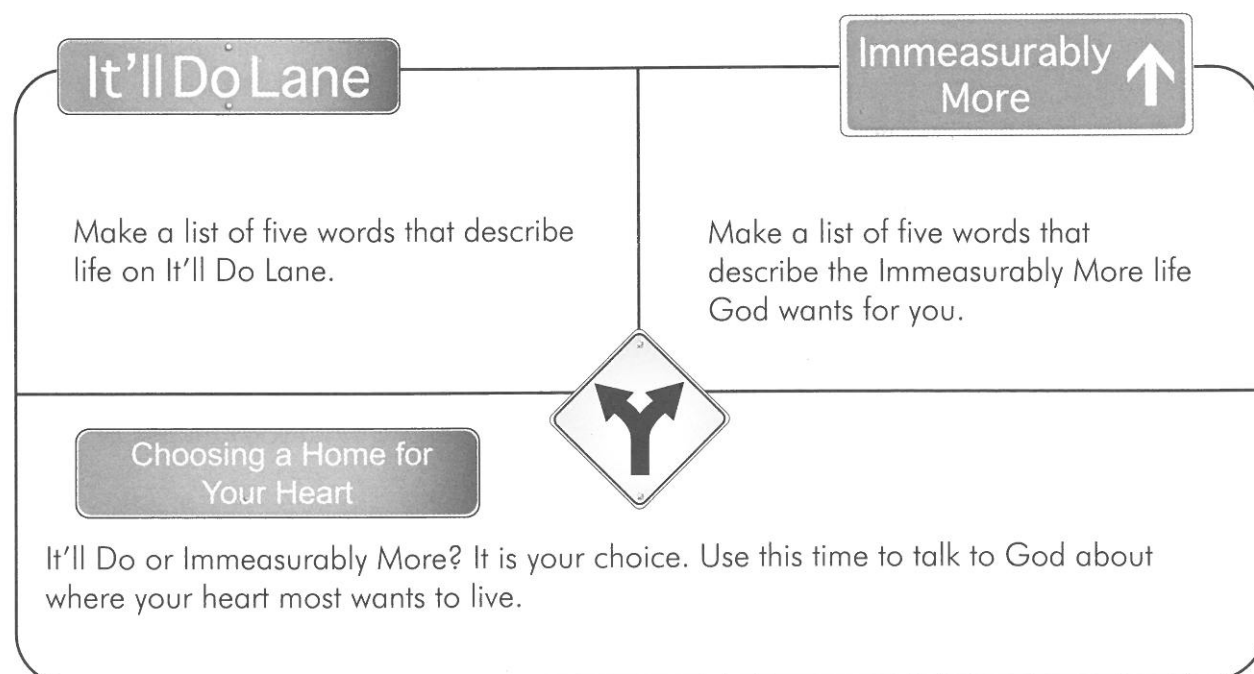
Barrier #3 – I don't know how to get from where I am to God's Immeasurably More.

It all sounds great, but I don't even know where to begin. Some days, mustard seed faith seems like a stretch for me. How will I know if I am traveling in the right direction?

Write John 14:6.

Here is the great news about the Immeasurably More life. It is all wrapped up in Jesus. He is the Way. When we walk with Him and in His will, we will find ourselves living in His Immeasurably More. His Word is the lamp that lights our way. His love dispels the fogs of doubt and despair that darken our days. His power fuels the transformation that is necessary for us to experience the Immeasurably More He has in mind for us.

 Read Jeremiah 29:11. What kind of plans does God have for you?



Day 3

Our road map into the Immeasurably More life is in the pages of the letter written by the Apostle Paul to the Christians in Ephesus. Known to us as Ephesians, Paul wrote this book of the Bible while he was in Rome, chained to a Roman soldier, and awaiting trial before Caesar in approximately 60-62 A.D.

Paul wrote to the Christians he loved from his travels in Asia, especially his three-year stay in the capital city of Ephesus. We first meet the Christians in Ephesus in the pages of Acts. It is here in Acts 19 that we get a glimpse into Paul's time with the people to whom Ephesians is written. In getting to know them, we meet ourselves. As Paul walks toward Ephesus, we learn how to take the first steps into the Immeasurably More life.

 Read Acts 19:1-7.

Who does Paul meet as he travels the inland path toward Ephesus?

What does Paul ask them? What is their response?

To whom does the teaching of John point?

What do these 12 men do after hearing about Jesus?

Paul's third missionary journey is based entirely in the city of Ephesus. Traveling inland through the mountainous region from Phrygia into Asia, Paul walks on a highway that leads through the interior country toward Ephesus, which is built on some hills by the sea.¹

On his journey, Paul meets a company of 12 men, disciples of John the Baptizer. John's ministry focused on preparing the hearts of those who would commit to waiting for the coming of Jesus.

Immeasurably More

Read Luke 3:15-17. What is the thrust of John's message?

Having been baptized into John's baptism of repentance and preparation, these disciples now live a life of anticipation. They wait expectantly for the Immeasurably More the Messiah will one day bring.

Paul shares good news with John's disciples. The Immeasurably More life they long for is available today. No more waiting. Jesus is the fullness of everything God wants to do in their lives. The journey into Immeasurably More begins with full surrender to the person and purpose of Jesus. The men are baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Because they don't have the assurances of the written Scriptures, God allows them the mercy of an outward manifestation of the Spirit so they can be sure that the presence of God now dwells within them.

In this amazing picture, we catch our first road marker into the Immeasurably More life. The first "more" that God wants to give us is Himself. He wants to live within us, dwell within our hearts, guide our minds, direct our bodies, and make His home in our souls. He wants to fill us with His Spirit. He longs for the character of Jesus to take shape in our lives. He wants to move in and flood our lives with His light, grace, love, peace, compassion, mercy, and joy.



Immeasurably More finds its best definition in learning to live fully and completely in the presence of God.

Surrender and obedience are the tools we are given to take the first steps into God's Immeasurably More. We can't live in God's Immeasurably More if we are full of ourselves. In order to be full of God, we must empty ourselves of self, dying to the person who lives on It'll Do Lane. The waters of baptism become the graveyard where we leave the old person behind and come into contact with the life-changing, grace-bestowing, fear-erasing, love-enhancing, sin-destroying blood of Jesus.



Read Romans 6:3-4. Describe how the new life in which we now walk because of Jesus opens the door to living the Immeasurably More life.

When we are baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus, we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. God moves in and fills us with Himself. This is where Immeasurably More begins – with the presence of God in our lives. All of the good things we long for find their fulfillment in His Spirit. All of the questions we ask find their best answer in Jesus. All of the hopes and dreams that fill our souls find their outlet in the presence of God in our lives.

The process that begins at baptism grows and expands every day after we rise from the water. Each day we make the choice whether or not to allow God full access to our lives. Do we want to be full of self or full of Him? Every time I give more of myself to Him, His Spirit moves in deeper and reshapes me a little bit more for His glory. Each moment that finds me holding onto the pieces of my It'll Do life pushes the dreams God has for me a little further away.

The disciples on the road to Ephesus could have settled for It'll Do. They could have decided that what John had taught them was enough and that they would stay where they were. Instead, they made a choice for Immeasurably More. They surrendered to the name of Jesus, and God filled them with the best "more" He could give them – Himself.



How does their story encourage you to surrender to Jesus today?

Day 4

Paul arrives in Ephesus having given us the key to living the Immeasurably More life. The antidote to living on It'll Do Lane is found in Jesus. The "more" we long for is best satisfied in the presence of God. He fills us with Himself and invites us into the adventure of living our lives soaked in all of the fullness, abundance, satisfaction, and blessing that come from dwelling deeply in Him.

Approaching Ephesus, we find a city that has a familiar rhythm. Ephesus is a powerful, wealthy, influential center of power. It lies on the trade routes that connect Asia to the rest of the world. It plays host to travelers, merchants, and seekers from every land, language, and religion. It has a thriving economy and one of the greatest markets in the Roman Empire. It boasts one of the seven wonders of the ancient world in its temple to the Greek goddess, Artemis. Ephesus stands at the crossroads as one of the most defining cities in the Empire and lives as a melting pot of beliefs and ideas from all over the world.

 Read Acts 19:8-20.

Describe how Paul speaks among the people in the synagogue.

Describe the power God displays through Paul in Ephesus.

Immeasurably More

What happens to the seven sons of Sceva?

What do the believers burn in the sight of all the people?

What is the impact of the way God moves among the people of Ephesus?

Paul moves into Ephesus and begins to teach about Jesus. He boldly speaks the name of the Lord, reasoning and persuading with the people who listen about the kingdom of God. It is within the lessons that Paul teaches here that we catch our next glimpse of Immeasurably More. The kingdom of God is the address of a heart that seeks His Immeasurably More. Moving away from It'll Do Lane, citizens of the kingdom take up residence in the shadow of God's sovereignty. The kingdom defines the boundaries of God's rule. It is where His promises are lived out, His blessings are enjoyed, His provision is most clearly seen, and His purpose is embraced.



How does the world encourage us to be kings of our own lives?



How will surrendering the throne of our hearts to God open the door to the Immeasurably More life?

While ever calling and entreating, God will not inhabit space where He is not welcomed. Paul leaves the synagogue and takes up residence in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. From this platform, the entire region of Asia hears the word of the Lord.

In addition to the proclamation of God's Word, Paul is empowered by the Spirit to perform miraculous signs that confirm the truthfulness of his message. The sick are healed of their diseases, and those held prisoner by evil spirits are set free.

The power displayed by Paul captures the attention of the sons of Sceva who attempt to use the name of Jesus for their own glory and position. In a moment that opens our eyes to the spiritual battle around us, the demons declare that they know the name of Jesus and even His servant Paul, but they refuse to bow to the authority of pretenders who misuse His name. Naked and wounded, the sons of Sceva flee from the house. Their lack of respect inspires others in the city to hold the name of Jesus in reverence.

Here we find another truth about the Immeasurably More life. It can't be lived in compromise. *Compromise* sounds like such a reasonable word. Find middle ground. Give a little, take a little. Look for a happy medium. Don't put all your eggs in one basket. Compromise allows us to hedge our bets, hold back a little of our hearts, and maintain some control while looking like we are moving in the right direction.

The problem is that there is no room for compromise when it comes to faith. Jesus wants it all. No holding back, no leaving room to maneuver, no hanging on to bits and pieces. He demands full surrender, complete obedience, and absolute devotion. Not because He is a dictator with an authority complex, but because He knows that it is the only way into the Immeasurably More life we were made to live.



Look up *compromise* in the dictionary. How does its definition help you see its connection to living on It'll Do Lane?

The Ephesian Christians show us how to release the compromise that threatens our journey into God's Immeasurably More. Examining their lives and what was hidden in their hearts, they moved from compromise to commitment. Their actions reveal three necessary steps that set our feet on the path out of It'll Do Lane and point our hearts toward Immeasurably More.

"Also many of those who were now believers came, confessing and divulging their practices." Here is a beautiful picture – Christians coming together and opening their hearts. They talk about their struggles. They confess their weaknesses. They open up their lives, behavior, attitudes, and actions and put them on the table. They link arms and encourage each other. They hold one another to the standard of Jesus, committing together to living lives that celebrate and honor His holiness.

Immeasurably More

Accountability and transparency are essential if I want to live an Immeasurably More life. Left on my own, I have a tendency to rationalize my choices, dress up my bad decisions, and justify my motives and desires. Transparency allows others to see into my heart and help me walk in His way. Accountability is an act of surrender that acknowledges I can't do it on my own and honors the truth that God sets me in a family to help me grow and become all He calls me to be.



Read James 5:16. With whom are you consistently transparent and accountable in confession and prayer? How do we develop these kinds of relationships?

"And a number of those who had practiced magic arts brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all." Here is a step into deep surrender and His Immeasurably More. The Christians in Ephesus do more than confess their compromise. They take action by burning the books that bind their hearts to It'll Do Lane. They don't pack them up and donate them. They don't put them in a closet. They burn them, cutting the ties that hold them back from embracing the fullness of God's Immeasurably More.



Read Luke 9:23. Take inventory. Is there anything you need to burn, deny, get rid of, or move out so that you can rise above the compromise that keeps you on It'll Do Lane?

"And they counted the value of them and found it came to fifty thousand pieces of silver." This isn't just an interesting side note. They count the cost of compromise and commitment. Fifty thousand pieces of silver is an incredible amount of money. One piece of silver represents a day's wages. Fifty thousand pieces of silver equals 136 years' worth of wages. Too often, we sell our souls so cheaply and invest our hearts in trinkets rather than the priceless treasure of God's presence. They look at the value of the books that hold pieces of their hearts and the value of what God is offering them, and they burn the books. They determine that God's Immeasurably More is infinitely more precious than any possession or amount of profit.



Read Luke 9:25. What kinds of things are people willing to trade for their souls? How do we learn to value commitment over compromise?

It'll Do Lane

Compromise is the name of the game. I can walk with Jesus while still holding on to a few things that really aren't that bad. Good enough is good enough.

Immeasurably More

Surrender and commitment are essential elements of the Immeasurably More life. God wants all of me so that He can fill every part of me with His abundance.



Choosing a Home for Your Heart

Pray for open eyes and a tender heart. Ask God to show you where you tend to compromise. Ask Him for the courage to leave good enough behind and walk in His Immeasurably More.