



# UNSTOPPABLE

## Unstoppable Outcasts

#npunstoppable

Week 4

4 of 4

January 26, 2020

**Bottom Line:** God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

**Icebreaker:** Who is your favorite superhero? Who is a person you consider a behind-the-scenes hero? Why?

**Key Verse:** *When they saw the courage of Peter and John and realized that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and they took note that these men had been with Jesus.* Acts 4:13 NIV

From our 21<sup>st</sup> century outlook we see the New Testament leaders as supernatural, untouchable people. They seem almost unreal, impossible to imitate or approach in impact. Yet in their day they were exactly like you and me. They quite possibly had less qualifications than you might have. They didn't have impressive resumes. They were unschooled, uneducated. They were without position or family prominence to set them apart. They were so ordinary that their courage was astonishing. Greek was the language of the day, and the Greek word for ordinary is *idiotes* (id-ee-o'-tace). Does that sound like a word you've heard somewhere? It means an ignorant or unlearned person, an idiot. Where did people like that get the confidence and power to do what they did? It could only be one thing—they had been with Jesus.

When God asks you to do something you feel totally unqualified to do, remember, you are in good company. The apostles are people we consider heroes for all time, yet they were ordinary people, feeling just as unqualified as we feel. Our weaknesses are precisely the reason God has chosen us, and the reason people take note. Something has happened! Our secret to being unstoppable is living in the presence of Jesus! His presence is transforming, and He makes a noticeable difference in who we are, our purpose, our perseverance, and our impact.

We can put our ordinary selves, the inadequate persons we see ourselves to be, in a place to be remarkably used by God. We do that when we DRAW near to God, when we SEE through Jesus' eyes. Then we must ACT on our good impulses and GIVE God the credit for all the results. When we BOLDLY share the good news of Jesus, lives are changed, and we have the honor of astonishing ourselves and the world. We have been with Jesus, and He used ordinary me to do extraordinary things!

### THINK IT OVER >>>

What impacted you most from the message?

What's your "I am not" excuse?

- I am not qualified.
- I am not capable.
- I don't have the proper training.
- I am not smart enough.
- I am not outgoing enough.
- I am not articulate.
- I am not confident in front of people.
- I am not \_\_\_\_\_.

How can living in the presence of Jesus increase your confidence? What Scriptures encourage you?

Paul was a highly capable and professional man, but his past life made him feel unworthy and inadequate. Peter was not trained and from a low class, which made him very ordinary. Each of them was powerfully used by God and became extraordinary, even as colleagues. Do you identify more with Peter or Paul? Why?

### LOOK IT OVER <<<

What are the steps you need to take to draw nearer to God?

How do you recognize when you are seeing through Jesus' eyes? What alerts you to the fact that you are seeing just from your own perspective?

How do you recognize an impulse you should act upon? What typically prevents you from following through?

How quick are you to give God the credit? Is receiving praise or compliments awkward for you? How would you define or describe an appropriate response?

What does it mean to you to boldly share the good news? Do you do that regularly? How can you become bolder?

What did God do through ordinary you in 2019? What are your prayer goals in 2020?

## NEXT STEPS

1. Set some goals for sharing this year. What people are special targets for you?
2. Make a goal for increasing your time in the presence of Jesus in 2020.
3. Share your goals with someone who will pray for you and check on your progress.

## EVALUTION/ACTION

Realizing and reaching your full potential in Christ

**Bottom Line:** God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

Rate yourself from 1 to 10 1 (never), 10 (always)	1	2	3	4		6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits will you obtain by raising your rating?										
Do you know someone who demonstrates this bottom line well? What do you admire about that person?										
What specific action can you put into practice to raise your rating?										
At the end of this week, reflect - where did you see the bottom line show up in your actions throughout the week?										

## PRAYER

List group members and their prayer requests for this week:

## DAILY STUDY

Want to dig deeper? Check out **The Daily** this week at [newpointe.org/daily](http://newpointe.org/daily):

Monday: 1 Corinthians 1:26-28

Tuesday: 1 Peter 2:9

Wednesday: Genesis 26:3-4

Thursday: 1 Samuel 16:7

Friday: Exodus 1:15-17

***Don't let the conversation stop here. Keep talking it over with others throughout the week.***  
*(Don't forget to bring this paper to your next small group meeting)*