

## THE GOSPEL OF ABUNDANCE

### Week 1

Ephesians 3:7-9 **Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. 8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,**

In its simplest form gospel means “good news!” The gospel is the good news of Jesus! But not just the good news that He came, died, and rose again. The good news of Jesus is the entirety of Jesus, who He is, His Kingdom that He embodies, what He has accomplished, and what He has grafted us into. The Gospel is good news beyond measure! Paul describes The Gospel in Ephesians 3:8 as “*The unsearchable riches of Christ.*” There is abundance in The Gospel of Christ, richness that goes beyond what we can comprehend.

Jesus said in John 10:10 “*I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*” The Gospel is not just a message that solves our problem with sin. The Gospel is the full good news of Jesus! The beauty of Jesus, the richness of Jesus, the wonder of Jesus. Jesus who took us out of death and brought us into life. But not just gave us life, sourced us with His life like living water, by His Spirit, that we might dwell within His abundance. Jesus came that we might have life and have it more abundantly!

In a world full of lack, we have a message of abundance! An abundance that satisfies. An abundance not sourced in things, but sourced in a Savior, a friend, Jesus.

QUESTION: Where are you experiencing any lack? Can you identify what is behind that lack?

QUESTION: What is the difference between lack and emptying yourself of something?

QUESTION: Where there is lack, is there something you have not emptied yourself fully of?

QUESTION: How does a church (the people in it) living from a place of abundance look different from a church heavily influenced by people living from lack? What are the practical implications?

In this study, we will look at the Gospel in three ways: The message of the gospel, The ministry of the gospel, The method of the gospel.

#### **The Message of The Gospel**

When Jesus says that he has come that we might have life and have it more abundantly, I suggest that that is the core of the gospel message. The messages of the gospel are many – the offer of the Kingdom, the forgiveness of sins, restoration to relationship with God – but all this and more can be captured by the stunning word abundance.

#### **The Ministry of The Gospel.**

Out of this abundance, the ministry of The Gospel is much broader than we think. It is personal evangelism, yes, but it is also expressing God's abundance every day with people in our world. Actions that flow out of God being our source become expressions of abundance and a witness to The Gospel.

#### **The Method of The Gospel**

**Because we abide in Christ, we are now able to live in the fullness of God's abundance.** Ministering The Gospel is not about ‘going on mission.’ We don't have to live under the pressure of what we used to call “getting more pelts on our belt.” Rather we see ourselves as pilgrims in this world showing and telling others every day about this ‘Kingdom’ we get to live in.