

WEIRD

(BECAUSE NORMAL ISN'T WORKING)



BETTER THAN NORMAL

David McQueen // January 8, 2012

MESSAGE RECAP

Real Jesus followers are...weird (Matt. 7:13-14; Rom. 12:1-2) They think and live differently, and they actively reject what is culturally *normal*, especially when it comes to areas such as time, money, marriage, and sexuality. They have discovered that what is considered *normal* simply is not working. Instead, they have found that God wants them to have better than normal - He wants them to have **abundant life**, which to the world is completely foreign and strange (John 10:10).

GETTING STARTED

1. How comfortable are you being *weird*? Does *weird* define you, or do you typically resist weirdness and its corresponding awkwardness? Do you think others see you as *weird* or *normal*?

GOING DEEPER

1. What is culturally *normal* when it comes to areas such as time, money, marriage, sexuality, church, or Jesus? Why is *normal* not working in these areas?
2. What is the appeal of *normal*, and why do many believers try to embrace both their faith in Jesus and the *normal* of our culture (which pull in a person in opposite directions)?
3. How do *weird* people - those who have chosen to genuinely pursue and follow Jesus - think and live differently?

MAKING IT PERSONAL

1. How willing are you to be *weird* as a result of your relationship with Jesus? Do you find yourself drawn to what is culturally *normal*?
2. In what areas might God want you to think and/or live differently...to be *weird* for His sake?

MINISTRY TIME

Intrinsically associated with what our culture considers normal is the quest for acceptance. Many are drawn to the normal of our culture simply because they want approval, validation, or acceptance. **Take time as a group to deliberately pray to the Lord for His abundant life, for His approval and acceptance.** Verbally affirm (with scripture if possible) that what He offers is infinitely better than what the world offers. Pray for a willingness to be weird for Him and His Kingdom purposes.

TAKING ACTION

The challenge this week is to **specifically approach the Lord about what is considered culturally normal.** Are there areas within your own heart that you have settled for what is culturally *normal* versus the abundant life He desires for you? Do you often find yourself straddling the fence between the *normal* of our culture and your faith in Jesus? How does He want you to think or live that may be considered *weird* by those around you?

JUST FOR LEADERS

VISION CASTING:

Challenge your Life Group to be intentional about **cultivating relationships** within your group. Beyond your group's Fireteam and Impact Group (breaking into groups just for men/women), encourage your group members to purposefully get together outside of your Life Group gathering to foster stronger connections.

CRITICAL DATES & INFORMATION:

- DNA Infusion: Sunday, January 15 & 22 as well as Wednesday, January 25
- GroupLink: Sunday, January 29 @ 6:30pm in the Worship Center
- Pursuit Conference: January 19-21 (register online at <http://globalawakening.com/events/full-event-list/pursuit-abilene>)

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