



WEEK 6: THE CAGE OF ASSUMPTIONS

Based on the book, *Wild Goose Chase*, and the Bible Study Curriculum, "Chase the Goose," by Mark Batterson

"We miss the adventure of chasing the Wild Goose when we trust our assumptions more than we trust God. As we age, many of us stop believing and start assuming. We stop living out of the right-brain imagination and we start living out of left-brain memory. And we put eight-foot ceilings on what God can do.

Children don't know what can't be done. They have not yet defined what is and what is not possible. No impossibilities; no assumptions. The only limitation they know is their God-given imagination.

*Unfortunately, we grow up, and tragic things happen to most of us in that process. Memory overtakes imagination; we stop make-believing, and we start making assumptions. We start thinking the way we've always thought, we start doing what we've always done, and generally speaking, the older we get, the more assumptions we make. **Before we know it, we've lost our sense of adventure, and most tragically, that loss of adventure invades our spirituality. Pretty soon, our faith has no edge to it, and we end up in the cage of assumptions. In order to break free, we need to come to a place where imagination overtakes memory.***

- **In what areas of life have you stopped make-believing and started assuming?**
- **Are any assumptions good assumptions? If so, what are they? If not, why not?**

Most of us have a strong tendency to hold assumptions we've made about our lives, our futures, those around us, and God's plan for us. Those assumptions often dictate how we act and react to situations in our every-day-life. **We pray that this week, you will begin to break down some of the strongholds you have built in your life through assumption!**



Read how God spoke to Abraham about some assumptions he had made.

¹ *After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:*

"Do not be afraid, Abram.

I am your shield,

your very great reward."

² *But Abram said, "O Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?"* ³ *And Abram said, "You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir."*

⁴ *Then the word of the LORD came to him: "This man will not be your heir, but a son coming from your own body will be your heir."* ⁵ *He took him outside and said, "Look up at the heavens and count the stars – if indeed you can count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your offspring be."*

⁶ *Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.*

Genesis 15:1-6 (NIV)

[NOTICE] Take notice of what God tells Abraham to do! Look at verse five. God took Abraham outside.

"Imagine the scene. Abraham was holed up in his tent. In a sense, he has a man-made, eight-foot ceiling over his head. Then God decides to take him on a little field trip outside of that manufactured environment. He told Abraham to look up into the night sky and to count the stars.

I have no idea how long it took – it might have been an all-nighter. Abraham must have lost count of the number of times he lost count of the stars, but by the time he was done, he had learned an important object lesson he would never forget. Abraham would never look into the sky the same way again because the stars in the sky were a nightly reminder of the promise God had made to him.

So why did God take Abraham outside? Why did He tell him to look into the night sky? Why did He tell him to count the stars? I think the answer is so obvious it eludes us. As long as Abraham was inside his tent, his vision was obscured by an eight-foot ceiling. That ceiling kept the promises of God out of sight. And as the old adage goes, "Out of sight, out of mind." I think God wanted to remind Abraham of how big He was, so He told Abraham to go outside and do a little



stargazing. I think it was God's way of saying, "Abraham, don't put an eight-foot ceiling on what I can do.""

- **List areas of your life that might be limited by an “eight-foot ceiling.”**
- **For each area, write down one practical thing you can do to remind yourself how big God is.**

“The low view of God entertained almost universally among Christians is the cause of a hundred lesser evils everywhere among us.

... [But] the man who comes to a right belief about God is relieved of ten thousand temporal problems.”

- A.W. Tozer

- **What is the biggest problem you are facing right now? How does your view of God compare to your view of the problem?**
- **It has been said that “God made man in His image, and man has been returning the favor ever since.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Why? How is that idolatry?**

“I'm convinced our biggest problem is not really our biggest problem. Our biggest problem is that we don't think God is



bigger than our biggest problem.”

- Mark Batterson

⁸ *“For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,”
declares the LORD.*

⁹ *“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and
my thoughts than your thoughts.”*

Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV)

***“When you enter into a relationship with Christ and you begin to
chase the Wild Goose [Holy Spirit], all assumptions are out the
window. Why? Because God exists outside of space-time
dimensions. He is omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent.
Consider these verses.”***

“I am able to do all things through Him who gives me strength.”

Philippians 4:13

*“Now to Him who is able to do above and beyond all that we ask or think – according to
the power that works in you – to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all
generations, forever and ever. Amen.”*

Ephesians 3:20-21

“If God is for us, who is against us?”

Romans 8:31

“Everything is possible to the one who believes”

Mark 9:23



“When you enter into relationship with God, He takes the eight-foot ceiling off of your life; that’s the heart of the story of Abraham. He told Abraham to look up in the sky: “Look at the stars. I’m the One who made them. Do not put an eight-foot ceiling on what I can do.” Quit assuming. Start Believing.

And that’s exactly what Abraham did.”

- **In what area of your life do you need to quit assuming and start believing? What does that look like, practically?**

[PRAY]

Pray specifically today that your group would begin to have a bigger view of God. To that end, spend some time in prayer saying out loud various names of God.

**For your personal use, we suggest you download the “Names of God” attachment for this session.*

If you enjoy Mark Batterson’s teaching, you can find more online. Search <National Community Church> on iTunes for a weekly podcast, or find out more at <http://evotional.com/>

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- 1) What has God been teaching you this week?



- 2) What point or idea did you come away with from this past Sunday Morning Bible Study? How has it affected you? What are you going to do about it?
- 3) How can we pray for you this week?