



## Uncommon

### Week 1: Uncommon Grace

**What we want students to learn:** The work of God isn't common.

**What we want students to do with what they've learned:** Identify the ways in which we tend to treat our relationship with God as common.

**Large Group Message Focus:** Acts 10:9-23

**Scripture Focus:** Acts 10:15

### The Main Point

The creation of the earth, the parting of the Red Sea, the slaying of Goliath, the virgin birth, the work of Jesus on the cross and in His resurrection. When put together in a list like this, we just may recognize the uncommon significance they possess, but how often do we read about events such as these in Scripture or hear about them, and often rush past them as if they are as normal as the ride we took to work or school in the morning? How often do we confuse the uncommon things of God with the common things of this world, simply brushing past what He has done and what He is still doing today? During this series, we will unpack stories in Scripture that point to the times in our life in which we are tempted to simply label "common."

### INTRODUCTION

Christmas season is officially here! Kick off small group tonight with a two or three of the following Christmas icebreaker questions.

- **What is your favorite gift you have ever gotten for Christmas?**
- **What if your favorite gift you have ever given for Christmas?**
- **What is your favorite Christmas tradition?**
- **What is your favorite Christmas movie?**
- **Tell a story about your favorite Christmas. Why was it your favorite?**

PRAY as you begin your small group tonight that your students would begin to see and understand personally that what Jesus did for them is far from common.

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### LESSON

- **When I say the word "common," what comes to mind?**
  - *Are your students struggling to name a few random things? Here are some synonyms of "common" to help them with this question: usual, ordinary, and regular.*

Today we aren't going to talk about all of the common things we just listed. Instead, we are going to talk about something that we tend to lump into the same category of all of those things. Without even knowing it, do you think we may have begun to look at, and label, Jesus as common too?

- **Why do you think we sometimes talk about Jesus as if He is just "ordinary?"**
- **High School Only - Are there any verses that come to mind, or things people say about Jesus, that you sometimes dismiss because they seem "simple" or "common?"**

In the New Testament, there was a man named Peter who fell into the same trap many of us do today, calling the work of God common.

Explain the following before having your students read the Scripture below. In the book of Acts, we learn about a man named Peter who received a vision from God. In this vision, God uses animals and food to communicate something to Peter. He was showing Peter that he had cleansed all animals and they didn't have to follow strict rules on food anymore. By saying this, he was also showing him that he had not only cleansed animals but people too, even those who were not Jewish. However, Peter responds by saying that he had never eaten anything common before. Acts 10:15 shows us God's response.

**Acts 10:15 (English Standard Version) - And the voice came to him again a second time, "What God has made clean, do not call common."**

After you and your students have read this translation, have them read a couple other translations and compare them. Consider looking at NIV, GW, and NLT.

Through our salvation, God made us clean, just like this Scripture says. So, we must be careful not to call that "common."

- **Why do you think God responded this way?**
- **What parts of your relationship with God are you tempted to see as ordinary?**
  - *We all have different parts of our relationship with God that we may be tempted to see as common. Here are a few questions that may help students understand what parts of their relationship with God they are tempted to see as common?*
    - *Do you see Jesus' forgiveness as common?*
    - *Do you see the fact that you can pray and talk to God as common?*
    - *Do you see God's love as common?*
    - *Do you see what the Bible says as common?*

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## LIFE APPLICATION

- **Describe some extraordinary things about Jesus.**
  - *Example answers: His love, his grace, the way He lived His life, the way He treated others, etc.*
- **How will you choose to see Jesus as extraordinary this week instead of common?**
- **What are some extraordinary things that God has done for you?**

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## TAKE IT OUT

Close small group out with prayer requests. Pray specifically that your group would see how extraordinary Jesus is this week.

After prayer, be sure to remind them of any upcoming group serving activities or student events and THE WEEKEND!