

# 2009-2010 NLA Theme

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One thing we know about God is that His power and love goes beyond our wildest hopes and dreams. By His very nature He abounds in love and grace, and works in wondrous, amazing, and often times surprising ways. In fact, everything about our faith points to possibilities beyond what seems possible. God continually shatters our understanding of what is truly possible. He creates beauty and order out of nothing. He establishes a great nation through a barren couple. He gives life through death. He gives abounding grace and unconditional love to those who least deserve it. He turns sinners into His children. Our God is the God of "big" things. He is the God who *"is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine"* (Ephesians 3:20-21). Our God and what He can do forces us to think in new and great ways.

As a school, New Life Academy thinks "big." It is our mission to develop students to do great things, to influence generations, to change this world, to turn the impossible into the possible...in, through and for Christ. We are not content with small aspirations, small goals, and small lives; because there is nothing small about our faith, our God, and His Kingdom. In everything we do this year we will seek to **"imagine"** what God can do. We will look beyond ourselves and try to see in what ways our God can work in our lives, our school, our community and our world – all the while imagining what God can do.

Some of the areas where we hope to stretch our understanding and look for God to transform through His grace are

## Fellowship and Community

A community and school transformed by God's love (respect, kindness, compassion...)

- Students, Parents, Teachers and Staff (the New Life Academy community) will treat each other with compassion, love and respect.
- 1 Peter 2:17, 1 John 1:7, Colossians 3:12, 1 Peter 3:8

## True Purpose and Real Value

Finding out who we truly are in Christ and what we were made for (worth, gifts, roles, the future, virtues...)

- The New Life community will find their role and importance in God's redemptive plan.
- Matthew 10:31, 1 Peter 1:7, 1 Peter 2:9-10, 1 Peter 3:4, Ephesians 2:10, Romans 8:16-17

## Hope

Having a hope in a hopeless world that doesn't disappoint (present and future hope in the face of suffering...)

- The New Life community will choose hope in Christ over despair and pessimism.
- Romans 5:1-5, Romans 8:38-39, Hebrews 6:19, Hebrews 11:1



## Passion

A thirst and hunger for God that pours out in all aspects of life (discipleship, fighting apathy...)

- The New Life community will not simply go through the "motions" of their faith but have an earnest desire for Christ that shows through in all they say or do.
- Psalm 42, Psalm 51, Isaiah 55

## The Impossible Becoming Possible

Through the power of God's grace and love, the seemingly impossible things of this life become possible through the one who strengthens us. (Doing hard things, accomplishing God-sized tasks, breaking the power of sin, new life...)

- Lives, families and communities will be changed within and by the New Life Academy community.
- Genesis 18: 13-14, Matthew 19:26, 1 Corinthians 1:20-25, Ephesians 3:20-21

## Certainty

A faith and understanding of God and His love that is sure (faith, assurance of salvation...)

- The New Life community will have a grounded, dynamic faith that will be the basis of their lives.
- Hebrews 10:19-23, Hebrews 11:1, Romans 8:1, 1 John 1:9

## Real Love

Knowing the depth, length and reality of God's love and our response (God's love, our love...)

- The love of God will be the basis of everything the New Life community says or does.
- Psalms, John 13:34-35, John 15:13, Romans 5:8, Romans 13:8-10

This year we're thinking big... We're going to be re-imagining the power of God in our lives and school. Join me in praying that God will continually amaze us with His love, power and grace.