

7 -WEEK STUDY ON POWER

WEEK 1

“Jesus and Power”

Philippians 2:3-11

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WEEKLY READING

Primary text from this week: Philippians 2:5-11

Secondary texts from this week: Genesis 1:27-28, Galatians 2:20

GETTING STARTED

Goals for this session: To understand how Jesus leveraged His power

Missed the sermon? Watch it at www.youtube.com/venturamissionary

Break the Ice: What was it like working for your first boss? Was it a good experience or a bad experience? Why?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Start by having someone from the group read **Philippians 2:5-11**. What do you think Paul means when he says that Jesus “made Himself nothing, taking on the very nature of a servant”?
2. Think about the “Christmas story” account in Luke 2. Does it surprise you that Jesus came as a baby? How does that reality connect with Paul’s words in Philippians 2?
3. Pastor Doug mentioned many different kinds of power, including *physical power, social power, positional power, specialized knowledge or skills, intellectual power, and economic power*. Can you think of any other forms of power that you observe around you? (**leader note:** some additional examples might include political power, spiritual power, emotional power, verbal power, or sexual power)
4. Pastor Doug said that “we all have power.” Do you agree with that statement? Why or why not?
5. Pastor Doug also stated that he believes “power is not necessarily good or bad.” Do you agree with that statement? Why or why not?
6. Let’s get personal, what are some areas where you have power?
7. Let’s get really personal, how do you typically leverage your power in those areas?

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PRAY

Pray for each other: Pray that Christ would transform you more and more into His image (Galatians 2:20).

Pray for our country: Pray that God would turn people to Himself, and that the Church would accurately reflect Christ to the world.

Pray for your four: Identify four people who don't know Jesus (friends, family, neighbors, or co-workers/classmates), and commit to pray for them consistently. Pray that **(1)** God would reveal Jesus to them, **(2)** that God would turn their hearts towards Him, **(3)** that God would put Christians in their path to represent Christ, and **(4)** that God would give you an opportunity to share what Christ has done in your life.

ACTION STEPS

Think of an area in your life where you have power. Identify one way that you can serve others in that area (ideally something you wouldn't normally volunteer to do) and take that on as your responsibility. Every time you perform that task at work (or home, or school, etc.), tell God, ***"thank you for creating me in the image of a servant, and thank you for the privilege of serving my _____ (family, friends, co-workers, etc.)."***

NOTES

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