

7 -WEEK STUDY ON POWER

WEEK 2

“Power and Abuse”

2 Samuel 12:1-9

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WEEKLY READING

Primary text from this week: 2 Samuel 12:1-9

Secondary texts from this week: 2 Samuel 11:1-17, Matthew 21:12-13

GETTING STARTED

Goals for this session: To understand our responsibility to stand up and speak out against abusive power

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

Break the Ice: On a scale of 1-10, how ticklish are you?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. On Sunday, we looked at 2 Samuel 12:1-9. Let's start by talking about Nathan. What are some possible reasons Nathan might have been tempted to avoid confronting the King? What do you think motivated him to confront the King in spite of the risks?
2. In his sermon on Sunday, Pastor Doug said: "Jesus reserved His strongest reactions for the powerful who were using their power to take advantage of the powerless." Do you agree with that statement? Can you think of any examples when Jesus confronted the powerful or protected the powerless?
3. Have someone in the group read **John 8:1-11**. In what ways was Jesus standing up to abusive power and in what ways is He protecting the vulnerable in this story?
4. In his sermon, Pastor Doug read the account of Jesus driving out the money changers from the temple. Have someone read the account in **Matthew 18:12-13**. Then, have someone read **verses 14-17**. Who does Jesus seem to gravitate towards: the powerful or the powerless? Why might this be significant?
5. In his book, **Strong and Weak**, author Andy Crouch writes, "The real test of any human community is how it cares for the most vulnerable among them." Do you agree with that statement or not? Why or why not?
6. What is a time in your life when you've had to be a Nathan and stand up and speak out against abusive power? Has there ever been a time that someone needed to be a Nathan in your life?

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PRAY

Pray for each other: Pray that Christ would reveal any areas where you need to stand up and speak out against abusive power.

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

Be a Nathan. Have that awkward or uncomfortable talk that you know you need to have, but you've been putting it off because you're scared or you don't want to rock the boat.

Find a Nathan. Find a trusted friend or family member or mentor who has permission to lovingly confront you if they see you doing something damaging to yourself or others.

NOTES

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