

7 -WEEK STUDY ON POWER

WEEK 4

“Power and Gender”

Luke 8:41-56

FLEX



WEEKLY READING

Primary text from this week: Luke 8:41-56

Secondary texts from this week: Genesis 1:27, Philippians 2:5-11, John 4:1-26, Luke 10:38-42, Luke 8:1-3, John 20:11-18, Acts 1-2

GETTING STARTED

Goals for this session: To recognize how Jesus included and empowered women

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

Break the Ice: Are you likely to be late or be on time?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What do you remember learning about being male or female as a child?
2. What are some ways that our culture tends to demean or marginalize women? Have you ever experienced those things firsthand?
3. Pastor Doug listed three groups of people that have been historically marginalized and abused: (1) women, (2) children, and (3) minority racial groups. Why do you think those groups have endured a higher rate of persecution and abuse? What other groups would you add to that list?
4. John Knox, who was the leader of the Scottish Reformation and the founder of the Presbyterian Church in Scotland, famously said that women were, "weak, frail, impatient, feeble, inconstant, variable, and lacking in wisdom." Do you feel like historically the church has played a helpful role in empowering women, or a hurtful role? Share examples with the group.
5. Have someone in the group read **Genesis 1:26-31**. What do you notice about the shared responsibility of the man and the woman?
6. Have someone in the group read **John 20:11-18**. Why do you think Jesus chose to reveal Himself to Mary before the other disciples, especially since women's testimonies were not even considered admissible in court?
7. Have someone in the group read **Acts 1:12-14**. What do you notice about who was present when the church was born? Does it surprise you that the early church included women? Talk about this.
8. How did Pastor Doug's message encourage you? How did it challenge you?



PRAY

Pray for each other: Pray for wisdom to include and empower women the way Jesus did.

Pray for yourself: Pray that God would reveal any ways that you have intentionally or unintentionally contributed to the problem of the marginalization or demeaning of women.

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

Pray that God would reveal any ways that you have intentionally or unintentionally contributed to the problem of the marginalization or demeaning of women.

Pray for the women in your life.

Write a note of encouragement to at least one woman in your life.

NOTES

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