

7 -WEEK STUDY ON POWER

WEEK 5

“Power and Race”

Acts 10:3-35

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WEEKLY READING

Primary text from this week: Acts 10:3-35

Secondary texts from this week: Acts 11:2,18; Galatians 2:12-14; Genesis 1:26-27; Mark 12:28-31; Ephesians 2:14-18; 2 Corinthians 5:18

GETTING STARTED

Goals for this session: To recognize that reconciliation is at the heart of the Gospel

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

Break the Ice: What is your favorite food to eat?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was your earliest experience with racial division, segregation, or inequality?
2. Tim Keller wrote a series of articles on the Bible and race, in which he makes the following statement:
*Every culture that is not based on God will make an idol – an ultimate value – out of something else, and that idol will ultimately will necessarily divide. If my highest love is my family, then I will privilege my family over others. If it is my business, my racial group, or my individual interests, I will privilege my race or my self over races and selves. The result of sin is that humanity becomes divided into racially and socially segregated ghettos that cannot understand each other.**

Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
3. Have someone in the group read **Luke 10:25-37**. Why do you think Jesus used a Jew and a Samaritan in His parable? If Jesus was telling this parable today, what groups might He use to illustrate His point?
4. Pastor Doug said that “true racial equality and unity are not possible apart from the Gospel of Jesus Christ.” Do you agree with that statement? Why or why not?
5. Throughout the Old Testament, God often issues instructions designed to protect the most vulnerable, specifically: widows, orphans, the poor, and foreigners. What are some groups that are vulnerable in our culture? What are some ways to care for and protect those groups?
6. Have someone in the group read **Acts 2:1-11**. Much ado has been made over the gift of tongues. As the early church was being launched out of Jerusalem, why do you think the first manifestation of the Holy Spirit was the supernatural ability to speak in other languages?
7. Do you think the church has historically been helpful or harmful towards racial relations? Explain your answer. What are some ways that the church can be helpful now?



PRAY

Pray for each other: Pray for opportunities to practice hospitality this week.

Pray for yourself: Repent for any intentional or unintentional ways you have been responsible for racial division.

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

Practice hospitality (share a meal, buy a gift, help with yardwork, drop off some fresh fruit, leave a Starbucks card on their doorstep) towards a neighbor you don't normally talk to or a friend you've recently unfriended.

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