

Big idea (reminder): The purpose of power is to empower those without power

What comes to mind when you think of having “power” in people’s lives? What are a few ways you’ve seen power used well, and/or not used well in your life (family, work, church, society)?

Read Ephesians 5:22 – 6:9. The picture of Christ leading his church is the ultimate example of a biblical use of power. How did Christ use his power to build up the church?

Compare/contrast the biblical view of power (From Christ’s example) with the view that has been formed by your experiences. What’s different? What’s the same?

Read Psalm 62:11, Revelation 13:1, and Romans 13:1. If all power belongs to God, what implications does this have for those who have power on earth? What does this mean for those under power? (All human power, rightly seen, is delegated power, or “power under power”. We are responsible to God for the power we have over those in our care, no matter the role.)

Go around the room and ask: In what areas of your life are you in power over others? (Examples include family, managing others in work, influence you have over people, leadership roles, coaching a team)

Self-assessment can be tricky, but think about the people you just said you have power over in life. Being as honest as possible with yourself, what are 1-2 words you believe they’d say to describe your use of power in their life? Examples could include abused, mistreated, neglected, marginalized, ignored, helped, encouraged, empowered, loved, served, appreciated, and so on (Leaders, give this dare: This week, ask someone who is under your power how they would describe your use of power in their life. Where critical remarks are given, be thankful and ask God for help in changing!)

What impact should the gospel and Jesus’ example have in our daily exercise of power?

It’s easy to blame others for our misuse of power. However, we will each be accountable to God for our use of power, so we must take personal responsibility for how we use it. How can we use the power we have been given to build up those under our power?

Prayer focus: Take time to thank Christ for his perfect example of servanthood and power in laying down his life for you. Ask him to change your heart’s attitude toward power to reflect his, so that he is glorified.

Accountability: What will you do this week to love, lead, or live more biblically in the area(s) where you are in power? Share your plan with the rest of the group and commit to coming back for an update in your next small group meeting. (Help your group be specific)