



Begin with a full appreciation that the power is not in the believing subject, but in the one we follow. Then realize that the proper response to the free gift of grace is total devotion, saved from ourselves, saved by his grace, but saved for a changed life. Then make it our mission to so imitate the master that those around us will become “little Christs” as well.

These questions are intended to deepen your experience of the message. Use them for your personal or family study time, or with an open Bible as you share the good news with your neighbor.

Group Ice-Breaker:

Share any funny stories about losing power or forgetting power. Stories where you forgot to plug something in, or forgot the batteries for a trip.

WHERE THE REAL POWER LIES.

Read Ephesians 1:19-20. Where is the real power in the Christian’s life? How important is it to recognize that following Jesus is about plugging into the power source, rather than trying to generate power from our own doing?

A CALL TO GRACE. We were nothing before and without Christ (Eph 2:1-9). We are nothing even now apart from Christ (John 15:5). And what we accomplish now is only through the work of Christ (Phil 1:6; 2:13). Discipleship is a gift of grace. Grace is opposed to earning (Rom 3-5). Discuss how we often miss this with “works-based merit achievement righteousness.” Compare with Philippians 3.

A CALL TO NEW LIFE. Grace is opposed to earning, but it is not opposed to effort. We were saved from ourselves by himself (Eph 2:8-9), but we were saved for a new self living a new life (Eph 2:10). Discuss how we miss this.

A CALL TO IMITATE. Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9. Three steps:

1. Recognize the source of all power is in God, thus the response is one of pure love (Deut 6:4-5)
2. From that love, we are convicted in heart to become what he wants us to be (Deut 6:6)
3. We then imitate our master while those around us see our life and imitate us (Deut 6:7-9)

C. S. Lewis: “The church exists for nothing else but to draw men into Christ, to make them little Christs.” How is this similar to the strategy given in Deut 6:4-9?

TELL THE STORY THAT EXPLAINS YOUR LIFE. Read Deuteronomy 6:20-25.

Ask yourselves hard questions (as individuals and as a church): what is the story that explains how we live? Identify people in your life (or at West Side) who exemplify this goal.