onechurch

bigIdea

Our God is awesome. Our God is powerful. But what does God do with His power? What does an all-powerful God do with absolute power? What do people tend to do with power? Unfortunately, as we look around us, we don't have many good examples of the use of power to draw from. But when we look back into the life of Jesus, we'll see the purpose of power exemplified.

BIG IDEA: We are most like God when we serve others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you agree with Chris' statement that everyone has power? What power do you have in your sphere of influence?
2. Baron Acton once said that *Absolute power corrupts absolutely*. Do you agree with that statement? How does that statement fit with Jesus Christ?
3. *Read Luke 22:24.* What was the context of Jesus washing the disciples' feet?
4. *Read John 13:1-3*. If you knew it was your last night with those you dearly loved, how would you spend it?
5. Jesus was fully aware of the power that he held, and yet he never leveraged it for his own benefit. He never turned stones into gold or used it to escape from his enemies. When have you seen someone use power for his or her sake to the detriment of others? When have you used power for your own benefit without regard for others?
6. What have you seen people do to protect their power? What have you done to protect your power?
7. *Read John 13:4-11*. Jesus put his power down to serve others. Why is it so hard for us to do this?
8. How does insecurity/security affect our ability to leverage our power for the sake of others?
9. If you were Peter, would you have reacted they way he did? Why or why not?
10. *Read John 13:12-15.* What does Jesus want us to do with the power we have been given?
11. What are the benefits of leveraging our power for others?

FOR FURTHER STUDY

1. *Read Philippians 2:3-11*. Reading between the lines, what do you think was the problem with the church in Philippi?
2. How can you consider a person 'better than' yourself when you know you are 'better than' they are?
3. In becoming human, what did Jesus have to give up? What things should we give up to show other people that they are better than ourselves?
4. What is the *therefore* in Philippians 2:9 there for?

THINK ABOUT IT

What do you do when you know you are the most powerful person in the room? What does your use of power say about you?

WHAT WILL YOU DO?

What is something specific you can do this week to use the power you have for others?

CHANGING YOUR MIND

Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. John 13:14