

Authority & Power – Week 2 – What Is Power?

Connect and review	
<p>Welcome any newcomers and ensure everyone knows everyone else's name. Encourage everyone to share something they learnt from last week.</p>	<p>Brief recap on last week. Sharing about personal reflections on last week's suggested activity, namely: 'Consider prayerfully how much you value God's authority in this world and in your own life'.</p>
Inspire and engage	
<p>There is no set way to present material, just go the way that suits you. Try to use most of the Bible verses.</p>	<p>Power = the ability to do something or act in a particular way, or the ability to influence other people or the course of events. In the New Testament various Greek words are used which translate into the English word 'power', e.g. (i) DUNAMIS = ability as residing in a person, or power in action, such as performing miracles; (ii) EXOUSIA = freedom of action, right to act, and is used of God. A much greater variety of Hebrew words are used in the Old Testament which we translate as 'power', but their varied meanings are very similar, if not identical, to those in the New Testament. Authority & power are clearly linked, i.e., those who have authority generally speaking also have power; likewise, little or no authority tends to mean little or no power. God has complete authority and, therefore, ultimate [= <i>the best or most extreme example of its kind</i>] power: see, e.g., 1 Chronicles 29:12; 2 Chronicles 14:9-15; Psalm 62:11; Matthew 28:18; John 17:2. However, He can – and does – delegate [= <i>entrusting a task or responsibility to someone else, or to authorise someone to act as His representative</i>] His power to others but can at any time take back that power. So, e.g., angels are given power to act on His behalf, e.g., 2 Kings 19:35; 2 Samuel 24:15+16. Likewise, believers can be given His delegated power, e.g., Acts 1:8; 4:33; 19:11+12.</p>
Explore and apply	
<p>Attempt one exercise at a time and only use them all if time allows. Try to encourage Q & A and discussion but avoid personal/private answers. Possible answers for the first Explore exercise include: Moses, Samson, Elijah, etc. For the second exercise the obvious example is church discipline. Possible answers for the Apply exercise are employers, teachers, church leadership, etc.</p>	<p>Explore</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What examples can you find in the Bible of people being given power to perform acts on God's behalf? 2. How does God give power to individual churches and/or their leaders? <p>Apply</p> <p>To whom has God given delegated power over you or part of your life?</p>
Reflect and review	
<p>This helps to show what has been learned and what may need to be reinforced.</p>	<p><i>Personal reflection:</i></p> <p>How comfortable are you with the truth that God is all-powerful? Does this suggest any change in attitude or behaviour is necessary in your life?</p> <p><i>Suggested activity</i></p> <p>Make a list of those over whom you have power or some sort and then prayerfully consider how you use that power – is it to help and encourage them?</p>