



Life Group Discussion Guide

May 18: 1 Samuel 7-11 --- The Misuse of Power

Icebreakers:

Tell a story about seeing a child under 6 years old do something to show their power.

Discussion Questions:

Read: 1 Samuel 7:3–6, 15 and 8:1–3

Quote (Randy): *"The greatest tool for the greatest harm to the greatest number of people is the sinister misuse of power."*

1. Give 2–4 real-life, **non-political** examples of misused power.
2. How does our approach and heart regarding power differ when we see ourselves as weak vs. powerful? What do you think is the difference in approach/heart?
3. When you have more power than someone else, what requires more self-control? Submitting to them or using your power? Why? (*Think: wrestling with a 3-year-old.*)
4. What happens inside you when you're caught in a power struggle? (*Examples: fighting over a parking spot, blocking a late merger in traffic, pushing for your child's success; being overlooked at work; needing to be "right" in a disagreement*)
5. What do you think drives a "Gollum-like" transformation? (*Gollum is a character from The Hobbit and The Lord of the Rings, obsessed and consumed by a ring that grants invisibility and power.*)
6. List 5 ways to live in full submission to God instead of pursuing personal power. Support each with Scripture as best you can. (*Suggested verses: Proverbs 19:20; 20:18. Philippians 3:7–11. Galatians 5:16–26. 1 Corinthians 12:21–26. Deuteronomy 5:5–11; 8:16–20. 2 Kings 17:36. 1 Chronicles 29:10–13. Ecclesiastes 12:13–14. Romans 1:16. 1 John 1:5–10; 2:15–17.*)

Fear and Power

7. Randy hinted that Saul feared people—how does fear impact our relationship with power?
 - a. Think of a fear you carry (*e.g., loss, failure, rejection, conflict, spiders, crowds, etc.*). How does that fear drive your pursuit of control or power?
8. Are you *really* in control?
 - a. How does it affect you when you realize you're not?
 - i. Emotionally?
 - ii. Spiritually?
 - b. How do you think it should affect you?

Reflection (Personal – for your eyes only)

9. Consider your personal types of power and rank them from 1 (*least powerful*) to 5 (*most powerful*):

Physical Verbal Emotional Knowledge Positional

- a. For your strongest and weakest areas of power, reflect:
 - Strongest Power:
 - Opportunity for Good:
 - Risk for Destructive Behavior:
 - Weakest Power:
 - Opportunity for Good:
 - Risk for Destructive Behavior:
10. What should the group pray for you regarding your relationship with power?

What's Happening in the Life of Legacy:

More details on these events can be found at lcc.org/whats-happening

All Campus

- **Advance the Kingdom:** We have exciting news in the life of Legacy! We want everyone to go "All In" on Project Advance. Learn more here: <https://lcc.org/advance/>
- **Kids Week:** June 2 – 5. 6:30 – 8:30pm. **Donations are needed!** <https://lcc.org/kidsweek/>
- **Men's Softball:** June 9 – 28. Black Bob Park. Cost \$40.

Local Serving Opportunities:

How can your Life Group Hear, See and DO the Word? Here are a few opportunities:

Joy Meadows – For more info, contact Sarah at sarahnolan@joymeadows.org

- Both group and individual opportunities to volunteer are available. Some opportunities include mentoring a child, helping maintain the garden and orchard, or caring for the farm animals.

Mission Southside – For more info, contact Crystal at crystal@missionsouthside.org.

- There are many ways for you or your family or Life Group to plug in and use your time, treasure or talent. Help with sorting donations, help our warehouse manager or help with food coop.