



a reality check on power

Ecclesiastes 8

This discussion guide includes preparation BEFORE the group and some guidance DURING the group meeting. Preparation before the group will help you, your leader, and your group to engage and respond to the living and active Word of God.

PREPARATION BEFORE THE GROUP MEETS:

The aim of this preparation is to encourage good & prayerful observation of the text of God's word and the joyful experience of discovering its truth.

Pray & read Ecclesiastes 8.2-17

What are the two most striking things in this reading?

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What puzzles you the most in this reading?

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How does this reading make you **feel**?

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What do you **think** in response to this reading?

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What will you **do** in response to this reading?

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WHEN THE GROUP MEETS: Pray for your discussion time

Discussion starter: What do you like and dislike about power? Discuss times when is power good and when is it bad.

read Ecclesiastes 8.2-17 – [check to see if anyone had a stand-out or something puzzling from this section]

▸ Who is the most powerful person here? Who or what does he have power over? (vv2-6)

▸ What does no-one have power over? (vv7-8)

No-one, not even the king has power over everything. What kind of power does the king really have?

▸ Discuss the abuses and problems of positional power that the Teacher laments here (vv9-17). Is this a good and true reflection of life under the sun?

▸ Do you think removing positions of power would fix the problems? Why/why not?

read Mark 10.42-45, Philippians 2.1-16

▸ Reflect honestly on the attraction of positional power and the apparent weakness of serving:

▸ Reflect together on the example of Jesus as the humble obedient servant King:

▸ Do you have the power to follow the example Jesus? Which of the practical examples of humble obedience that the Apostle Paul commands do you feel most powerless about?

PRAYER time! Take time to thank God for Jesus, his powerful obedient humble servant King. Say sorry for using power to lord it over others. Ask God to convince you of the power you have in Jesus to humbly obediently serve Him and others praying specifically about the practical examples you feel most powerless about