



Empowered

Focus To see people saved, healed, set free, disciplined, equipped, **empowered** and serving.

Open What do you enjoy most about your small group?

Read To “empower” means to “put power into.” God wants us to live our lives to the full—to be all that He intended us to be. The power to do this can only come from Jesus (John 1:12). Jesus has all power, but His power is not available to us until we receive Him. Receiving Jesus is more than a mental agreement that He is the Christ. It is submitting our wills to Him.

When we are saved, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell *within* us. Acts 1:8 says that the Holy Spirit will also come *upon* us—that we will receive His power to be witnesses. We receive the Holy Spirit by submitting ourselves to Him.

We also receive power by submitting ourselves to leadership of our local church. We have spiritual authority by submitting to spiritual authority. When we receive power through Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and our spiritual authority we will be empowered to love, serve, witness, and live abundantly. God wants us to live empowered for victory in this life.

Talk

1. How would you describe what it means to be “empowered” by someone?
2. Why must be submitted in order to receive power? Practically, what does it mean to be submitted to Jesus? To the Holy Spirit?

3. a. Why must we be under spiritual authority to have spiritual authority?
 - b. Why is it important to be under the spiritual authority of your local church?
How is this different from being accountable to a group of friends?
4. What attitudes or beliefs might hinder someone from receiving (submitting to) Jesus, the Holy Spirit, or spiritual authority?
5. What will we receive when we submit, according to the following verses?
John 10:10 Luke 24:49 Acts 1:8
John 1:12 Galatians 4:4-5 John 15:11

Live Form groups of two or three and answer the following questions:

1. Have you received Jesus? Are you continuing to submit your will to Him?
2. Have you received the Holy Spirit? Are you continuing to submit your will to Him?
3. Have you received the spiritual authority in your local church? What steps, if any, do you need to take to submit to your local church leadership?

Pray Pray for one another in your small groups concerning the things listed above. If you would like to receive Jesus as your Savior, invite Him to be your Lord today. Ask the Holy Spirit to come upon you that you might receive and walk in His power daily. Pray that each of you would experience a greater level of empowerment through Christ in the coming weeks and months.