

The Power of God

FCC Life Group Discussion Notes

Part 1. In the "Into the Depths of God" Series of Matthew Rogers

Stephen Lieninger

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Opening Prayer

- Thank God for His unmatched power and for the times He has already intervened in our lives when we felt completely powerless.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to open our hearts during this discussion so we can honestly face areas of weakness and invite God's power to work through them.

Ice Breaker

When is a time you felt completely powerless—maybe as a kid on the playground, in a tough situation at work, or facing something way bigger than you—and how did you respond in the moment?

Key Scripture

2 Chronicles 32:7–8 (NIV) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria and the vast army with him, for there is a greater power with us than with him. With him is only the arm of flesh, but with us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles.” And the people gained confidence from what Hezekiah the king of Judah said.

Sermon Summary

When we recognize our own powerlessness in the face of life's challenges, we can turn to the almighty God who intervenes with His power, just as He did for King Hezekiah against an overwhelming enemy. God's power is made perfect in our weakness, and the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is available to us today when we surrender our own strength.

Discussion Point 1: A Powerful Intervention for a Powerless King

Scripture: 2 Kings 19:14–19 (NIV) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

Hezekiah received the letter from the messengers and read it. Then he went up to the temple of the Lord and spread it out before the Lord. And Hezekiah prayed to the Lord: “Lord, the God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. Give ear, Lord, and hear; open your eyes, Lord, and see; listen to the words Sennacherib has sent to ridicule the living God. It is true, Lord, that the Assyrian kings have laid waste these nations and their lands. They have thrown their gods into the fire and destroyed them, for they were not gods but only wood and stone, fashioned by human hands. Now, Lord our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all the kingdoms of the earth may know that you alone, Lord, are God.”

Suggested points for prayer is given in each prayer section and are up to the discretion of the leader.

Point Summary:

Facing certain destruction from the Assyrian army, King Hezekiah didn't rely on military strategy or his own strength. He laid the entire problem before God, acknowledged God's sovereignty, and asked for deliverance so that God would be glorified. God responded by sending an angel who destroyed 185,000 enemy soldiers overnight.

Discussion Questions:

1. What stands out to you about the way Hezekiah prayed in the middle of a crisis that seemed hopeless?
2. When have you (or someone you know) experienced a situation that felt as overwhelming as Hezekiah's, and what difference did it make to spread that "letter" out before the Lord?

Discussion Point 2: The Same God Wants to Display His Power in Our Lives

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 12:9 (NIV) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

Point Summary:

Feeling powerless is part of life in a broken world—whether it's a diagnosis, financial pressure, relational pain, addiction, or loss. The Christian faith is unique because God comes to us in our powerlessness and offers His strength. The spiritual equation is simple: to experience His power, we must surrender our own.

Discussion Questions:

1. Which of the "powerless" situations mentioned in the sermon (or one from your own life) feels most real to you right now, and how does it feel to admit that you can't fix it on your own?
2. What does it practically look like for you to surrender your own power so that God's power can be made perfect in that weakness?

Discussion Point 3: His Power Over the Ultimate Bully

Scripture: Ephesians 1:18–21 (NIV) – *Ask a group member to read aloud.*

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

Point Summary:

The same power that defeated the ultimate bully—death—through the resurrection of Jesus is available to every believer. When we know Christ, we know His power, and that power turns us into “more than conquerors.” Real power is displayed not in self-reliance but in humble dependence, like a child receiving the kingdom or like the quiet prayer warrior who has already overcome through Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does knowing that the same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work for you change the way you face current struggles?
2. Who is someone in your life (or in this church) who models quiet, humble dependence on God’s power, and what can you learn from them?

Wrap-Up

God’s power is not theoretical—it is the same power that rescued a helpless king, that is made perfect in our weakness, and that conquered death itself. When we stop trying to fight in our own strength and instead lay everything before the Lord, we discover that “with us is the Lord our God to help us and to fight our battles.”

Challenge

This week, identify one area where you feel powerless. Write it out (or speak it) and intentionally “spread it out before the Lord” in prayer, asking Him to display His power so that He alone is glorified. If our church is currently walking through a Prayer Journey or similar emphasis, join in by interceding for others who feel overwhelmed.

Closing Prayer

- Praise God for specific ways He has already shown His power in the lives of people in this group.
- Ask for the courage to surrender our own strength in the places we feel most powerless this week.
- Pray for anyone currently walking through crisis, that they would experience God’s intervention and that His name would be glorified.

Handout

Life Group Handout – The Power of God

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Key Verse to Remember

“Be strong and courageous... for there is a greater power with us than with him.”

2 Chronicles 32:7–8 (NIV)

2. My “Powerless” Situation

Write one area of your life right now where you feel weak or overwhelmed:

3. Hezekiah’s Pattern of Prayer (fill in the blanks)

- He laid the entire problem at the feet of the _____.
- He recognized the Lord’s _____ and _____.
- He identified the _____ significance of the problem.
- He requested God’s _____ so that God might be _____.

4. Personal Reflection

What would it look like for me to “spread this letter out before the Lord” this week?

5. One Step of Surrender

I will specifically surrender _____ and ask God to display His power in that area by _____.

6. Prayer Request I Want the Group to Carry

Sources used for these notes:

- *Sermon content and illustrations provided directly by Stephen Lieninger.*
- *Bible quotations drawn from the New International Version (NIV) as referenced in the sermon manuscript and cross-checked for accuracy against standard NIV text.*