



THE WIN

The group member will understand that their life is to fully display the power, authority, and mission of God. The group member will demonstrate their understanding by researching Scripture passages in groups and then communicating how the nature of God impacts their life.

3-5
minutes

SERMON RECAP: WHAT DID THE TEXT MEAN? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

ASK THIS:

In the sermon this week we learned that God displays His power, authority, and mission through the vessel of the local church.

- Did this sermon align with your current perspective of the nature of God and the role of the Church? How or why not?

3-5
minutes

WARM UP

ICEBREAKER:

When shopping at the mall, what is most likely to attract your attention from the shop window?

- Clothing introducing the latest fashion
- The newest shoes
- Gadgets
- Hobby related gear (i.e. hiking, sports, hunting, cooking etc.)

What is it about those items on display that attract you? What do you believe your attraction to those items reveals about you?

THE TEXT: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR ME?

SAY THIS:

The text from the sermon was Ephesians 1:20-23. Will someone please read it for the group?

ACTIVITY: Part 1

Goal: Discover what Scripture teaches about God's power, authority, and mission.

1. Divide the group into 3 groups
2. Each group will spend the next 10 minutes looking through Scripture for verses that teach on God's power, authority, and mission. Then, as a group they will present their verses to the whole group and explain what each verse reveals about their attribute (God's power, authority, or mission).
3. Assign each group 1 of those attributes (group 1-God's power, group 2-God's authority, group 3-God's mission) Groups can use the internet, their Bible etc. to search for verses

Leader Tip: The Concordance located in the back of most Bibles will be helpful for this activity. There are usually 1000s of words that have been indexed in most Bible translations. Our heart behind this exercise is to get our people into the Word of God and allowing the Word to challenge their presuppositions, if any exist. Don't rush this activity but rather let it fill the whole time if possible. It is likely that many of your group members will be introduced to Scripture they have yet to encounter.

ACTIVITY: Part 2

- Once the 10 minutes is complete, spend the next 10 minutes having the groups report back to the large group. Make sure they answer the question "What does this verse teach us about God's _____?" for each verse they present.

ACTIVITY: Part 3

- Once all groups have presented their findings, spend the next 10 minutes having the groups go back and prepare a response to the statement below while keeping in mind God's power, authority, and mission.

"I believe in Jesus but I don't need to be a part of a church."

Leader Tip: Our reason for including Part 3 is we don't want our people to simply research the Scriptures and then go on their way. We want all of our groups to be confronted with a philosophy that is growing in society today, and then be in a position to combat such a philosophy. Push your group to wrestle with the implications of how Biblical authority and power impacts a person's decision to live in Christian fellowship.

- Once the 10 minutes is complete, have a group representative from each group present their response to the large group.

Leader Tip: As each group responds, encourage the other groups to discuss the strengths and weaknesses of the response. How compelling is it? Did they consider God's power, authority, mission in their response?

3-5
minutes

DIGGING DEEPER

HAVE SOMEONE READ:

Ephesians 1:21

In light of Eph. 1:21 what should be the Christ-followers response to the ISIS/ISIL conflict in the Middle East? What is the role of the Church?

Leader Tip: Don't let this question get people agitated but rather try and intentionally push them to Scripture. If Jesus is above all authority, power, dominion, and every title given then its is important to clearly know the response of the Christ-follower. If the discussion gets too much to handle, shut it down.

3-5
minutes

CLOSING THOUGHT

Christ-followers are meant to live a life that fully displays the power, authority, and mission of God. But we're not there yet. God is still working on each of us and it is up to us to submit our lives to Jesus daily. Be encouraged by this story from the 19th Century during the time when alcohol abuse was rampant. There was a Russian-Orthodox priest named John of Kronstadt. His peers wrote about him,

None of the priests ventured out of their churches to help the people. They waited for people to come to them. John, compelled by love, went out into the streets. People said he would lift the hungover, foul-smelling people from the gutter, cradle them in his arms and say to them, "this is beneath your dignity. You were meant to house the fullness of God."¹

¹ Smith, James Bryan, *The Good and Beautiful God* (Downers Grove, Ill: IVP Books, 2009),162.