



# Sermon-Based Small Group Leader Notes

For the week of November 13, 2011 (week 9 of 10)

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## Introduction

### Topic: The Idol of Power

Sermon Title: "Make It All About Power"

Sermon Series: *How to Wreck Your Life* (week 5 of 5)

Scripture: 2 Chronicles 26:1-5, 16-23

Sermon by: Pastor Harrington

### Goals for This Gathering

- To discuss the homework
- To pray together
- To look at how we view power in our lives and discuss ways to prevent allowing power to become an idol
- Discuss any changes to the your group's meeting schedule that might need to be made in light of the upcoming Thanksgiving weekend
- Review the past four weeks of the *How to Wreck Your Life* series and perhaps even allow time to talk about what other idols we have aside from those Pastor Tom discussed

### Prayer

- Take prayer requests and praises
- Pray for continued growth of the Small Group ministry at Northwest, for new group leaders and hosts, and for more people to find meaningful connections in a small group
- Pray for the spiritual growth of your group and for us to acknowledge the idols we have in our lives

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## Getting Started

The questions in this section allow your group to talk about this week's topic (power as an idol) while continuing to reflect upon the idols discussed during this sermon series.

**Questions 1-4** also allow for you to lead your group to think about application of the sermon to our lives (as a whole, in our society, and to our personal lives). Be prepared with some example answers or thoughts for questions 1-3.

**Question 4** seems to have a simple answer (God's kingdom includes everything and ours is limited) but it may open up discussion that will better prepare the group for the rest of the lesson. Be ready to allow for more answers as need be, or move on if there aren't any responses beyond a brief explanation.

If we view ourselves as God-appointed stewards, how might that help us look more critically at how we exert power over

others in our lives (keeping in mind that God has put us in certain situations for a reason but also given us direction on how best to serve over others)?

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## Into the Bible

In this section, participants have the opportunity to look at two other passages from the Bible that further explore the topic of power and the impact that we allow it to have on our lives and the lives of others.

Ephesians 6:10-17 encourages us to think of ourselves as warriors on a battlefield, reminding us of the God-given abilities and tools we have when we are facing evil in the world or within ourselves.

1 Peter 5:2-3 encourages us to think about how we view our power and leadership over others.

**Question 7** is very open to discussion. The analogy of us being like shepherds can give us a view of power that points us to a perspective that is much more in line with that originally intended by our Creator.

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## Digging Deeper

- **Questions 8 and 9** allow for the group to think about the roles in their lives and the responsibilities of those roles (8), and to think through examples they have of when others managed their power (or status) well (9).
- **Question 10** asks the group to reflect on the past five weeks and encourages each participant to think through what God has put on their heart as they move forward and try to recognize and minimize the idols in their lives.
- Close with prayer, praying for each other and for God's wisdom and power in allowing God his proper role as Lord over every part of our lives.

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## Prayer Requests and Closing Prayer