

Week Beginning: 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2017

Worship Series: #2 in series



living sharing growing



lifegroups  
live life abundantly

## Theme Verse

Jesus traveled throughout the region of Galilee, teaching in the synagogues and announcing the Good News about the Kingdom. And he healed every kind of disease and illness. Matthew 4:23

## Remember This Week

Jesus called ordinary people right in the middle of their ordinary lives to be in relationship with the ordinary people all around them. Through those ordinary relationships Jesus did extraordinary things. He still does - through you! Every time grace is shared, hope is proclaimed or healing comes, his life-giving presence is powerfully at work in life-creating ways through your life.



**Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth, sing praise to the Lord, to him who rides across the highest heavens, the ancient heavens, who thunders with mighty voice. Proclaim the power of God, whose majesty is over Israel, whose power is in the heavens. You, God, are awesome in your sanctuary; the God of Israel gives power and strength to his people.**

Psalms 68:32-35

Dear Heavenly Father, we praise you for your power and majesty. We give you thanks for sending your power into the world in Jesus Christ, who has freed us from the power of sin, death and the devil. We praise you that in our baptism you have drawn us into your family and bestow on us your Holy Spirit to give us power to live as your people. Let your Spirit work through this time of study to strengthen our faith in you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

1. *Highs and Lows for the week.*
2. *Accountability time. How did you go with your living purposefully from last time?*
3. *Have you ever driven a powerful car and how did it make you feel?*
4. *What's the attraction of powerful cars and what's the problem with all that power?*
5. *God the creator of heaven and earth lives in you. What kind of power trip is that?*

302/351 253/308 To most people these just look like random numbers. But to a car enthusiast, it's enough to get some animated discussions going. Which engine is more powerful, faster, sounds better!

As a claimed and called disciple of Jesus, infused with his Spirit, you have more power at your disposal than you can ever imagine. Power to love, to heal, to teach, to bear the image and presence of God in whatever places, circumstances or institutions you find yourself. So today we look at being infused with power; a power that is life-creating and leads to a life that is flourishing.

Read Matthew 4:17-25

This text marks the start of Jesus' ministry. We hear nothing of Jesus' teenage years or young adulthood. He steps up into ministry (we presume) as a 30 something year old.

6. *When did you leave home and what made you take that step? What gave you strength and resolve to do that? Why do you think Jesus waited for this time in his life to begin his ministry?*





7. *Jesus' first act was to start preaching. What does the word "repent" mean to you? Why might Jesus focus on repentance? In what sense could God's kingdom be said to be "approaching" or "arriving"?*
8. *Jesus soon calls others to be his disciples so he could train them for the work of the kingdom. What questions do you have about their call in v 18-22?*
9. *What questions might the fisherman have for Jesus? What do you think they saw in Jesus that could make them give up their career to follow him? What prior knowledge do you think they had of Jesus (see verse 13 and 17 and how their paths may have crossed before) (if you want to explore this further, read John 1:29-42 and Luke 5:1-11)*
10. *At what point do people of faith leave their questions aside and follow, trusting in God to provide the answers? How and what first drew you to Jesus?*
11. *At the heart of it, what empowered the disciples to leave their nets?*

In verses 23-25, things move quickly. Jesus is pictured moving around the area of Galilee in the northern part of the kingdom and people are soon drawn to him.

13. *What three things mark Jesus' ministry? Which of these do you think drew the crowds? Which one of these has the greatest power in your life to bring you closer to God?*
14. *How do you see Jesus still working in power in the world today?*

Jesus left his disciples on earth to carry on his work of bringing people into the kingdom of God. Jesus didn't leave us alone to do the job but gives us his power to do his work.

Read Acts 1:8

16. *What does Jesus give his disciples the power to do? Do you feel like God has filled you with his power? How does your baptism affirm that God is with you despite any doubts that you may have on the matter?*
17. *In what ways do people experience God's power working through your life?*
18. *If you think back to the three marks of Jesus' ministry, in which of these areas do you feel like you are skilled at contributing? In which area would you like to see God working his power to grow you in?*



Read 2 Timothy 1:7-10

19. *When you think about God working in your life, do you only see your human failings or do you focus on the Spirit of God who is working with his power in you? How can you let God's Spirit inspire you in your week to live in his power?*
20. *How does shame stop you from telling others about Jesus? How can God's power help you through the suffering you may face if you trust his leading in sharing the faith with others?*
21. *How does God's grace given to you in Jesus Christ inspire you in your discipleship journey? How can you let this amazing power that sustains your faith flow into your relationships with others?*
22. *Jesus called ordinary people right in the middle of their ordinary lives to be in relationship with the ordinary people all around them. Through those ordinary relationships, Jesus did extraordinary things. He still does - through you! How can you let go of your fears and let Jesus' life flow through you this week.*



- \* Pray for all Christians that they would daily trust in God's power to work through them to the glory of his name.
- \* Pray for those who feel powerless and vulnerable in this world or who are abused by those in positions of power, that they may know the powerful presence of a Saviour who is for them and with them.
- \* Pray that God would continue to work in power through our lives in all that we do in and through LifeWay.
- \* Pray for each member of your Life Group and those you know who are in need.

Turn to the person next to you and make the sign of the cross on the palm of their hand or forehead as you say:

*Name, may you live by the power God has given you. Amen.*

