

# what if it's true?

REASONS TO BELIEVE

## WEEK 8 - POWER OVERVIEW

The idea of power is baked into human society, from individual families to civilizations. Rulers use power to establish laws, small communities entrust power to their leaders, even families rely on the power of organization and authority. However, a quick glance through human history or a glimpse of the average human family will reveal that what is meant to *organize* our world far too often warps it. Power is hoarded and misused, leading to the further breaking of our world. In the gospel of John, we see Jesus presenting an entirely different approach to power. Christ's authority, we learn, comes not from lording it over people, but from giving himself away. It's through Jesus we learn that a *surrender* of power is the way for God's life-giving power to endure and to bring our communities back to who we were created to be.

*I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat is planted in the soil and dies, it remains alone.  
But its death will produce many new kernels—a plentiful harvest of new lives.*

**John 12:24**

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Give an example of a fictional person longing for power.
2. Read [Genesis 1:27-28](#) and [Daniel 7:13-14](#).
  - a. Why do people long for power?
  - b. Is power bad? Why or why not?
  - c. What type of leader were the people of Israel waiting for? (See [John 12:31-32](#).)
3. Read [John 12:20-26](#), [John 12:32-33](#), [John 13:12-17](#).
  - a. Describe a Christlike approach to power.
  - b. What would it look like today for someone to give their power away?
4. What is the Ladder of Influence?
  - a. How could you use the Ladder of Influence to determine which leaders to follow?
  - b. Who or what is shaping your approach to dominion?
  - c. When considering your own journey of power, where are you on the ladder, and why?
5. Where in your life could you demonstrate the posture of a servant, like Jesus did?