

## What Is Power & What Is It For?

Genesis 1:20-31, 2:7; John 1:1-5, John 2:1-12

### OPEN

We begin the first week of our Lenten sermon series *Power in Your Hands* by introducing the idea of power in its original form. Take a few moments to answer the opening questions to gain *sight for the pathway* in how you currently think about power.

- When you think of the use or exercise of power, do you think of power positively or negatively? Why?
- What is the first thing you thought of when you heard the word *power*?
- Are you person attracted to power or one who avoids power?
- What has shaped your view of power (from childhood until now)?

### DISCUSS

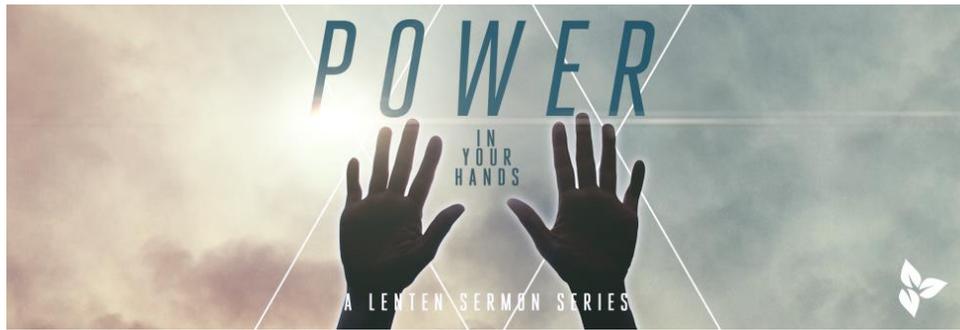
Power may be defined as: *The Godlike ability to make things happen and give meaning to life.*

- Share your thoughts about this definition.

To properly orient ourselves around the topic and reality of power, we must go back to its beginning...to THE beginning.

Take a few minutes to read our Scripture text for this week: Genesis 1:20-31; 2:7; John 1:1-5; John 2:1-12

- Take a few minutes to share what you learn about power in these texts or from the sermon.
- What mission does God give specifically to humanity in Genesis? What implications does power have for each of us?



- What word accompanied the use of God's power in Genesis (and can be applied beyond Genesis as well)?
- Do you notice how power, when used well, brings flourishing? Any thoughts you would add?

The three BIG IDEA of this series:

1. Power is the good, Godlike capacity to make stuff happen that wouldn't have happened otherwise.
2. Power is for the flourishing of creation.
3. Power is a sacred trust we will steward well or handle poorly. What do you want your role to be?

## **YOUR NEXT STEP...**

- Reflect this week on the question posed in the BIG IDEA above.
- Think about the poem by Billy Gallagher and the questions with it:

*Isn't it strange that paupers and kings and clowns that caper in sawdust rings  
Are ordinary folk like you and me, are builders of eternity.  
To each is given a bag of tools, an hour glass, and a book of rules.  
And each must build 'ere their time has flown, a stumbling block or a stepping stone.*

- What is the bag of tools God has given you?
- Who do you know who needs a stepping stone?
- Will you be cruel, overly cautious, or creative with the power in YOUR hands?