

# 7 -WEEK STUDY ON POWER

## WEEK 3

“Power and Success”

Luke 12:13-21

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## WEEKLY READING

**Primary text from this week:** Luke 12:13-21, 34

**Secondary texts from this week:** 1 Timothy 6:17-19

## GETTING STARTED

**Goals for this session:** To understand our responsibility to steward the power (success) God has given us in order to bless others

**Missed the sermon?** Watch it at [www.youtube.com/venturamissionary](http://www.youtube.com/venturamissionary)

**Break the Ice:** What is the most successful thing you have achieved/accomplished and what were the factors that made you successful in this area?

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. On Sunday, we looked at different ways power can be represented (position, influence, money, success). How have these “powers” contributed to you flourishing? To you languishing?
2. Have someone in the group read **Luke 12:13-21**. What is the specific warning Jesus is pointing to in the parable? According to Jesus, what isn't life about? If life isn't about these things, why are we so consumed by them?
3. Which of Janet Hagberg's stages of power do you most identify with right now and why? 1) Powerlessness; 2) Power by Association (Apprenticing with a mentor, teacher, parent, coach); 3) Power by Symbol (Achievements, degrees...); 4) THE WALL (Significant life crisis); 5) Power by Purpose (Emerging from our reflection of an increased purpose to share our resources with others with no benefit to ourselves); 6) Power by Wisdom (Christlikeness. The entire focus of our lives is to share all that we have with others without any direct benefit for ourselves. Transformative love rather than transactional love.)
4. In his sermon on Sunday, Pastor Scott said, “Power and success are not about getting more of something, but giving more of something.: How often are you using the “power” God has given you to chase after more? In what ways might you start giving more of what God has given you for others?
5. The Greek word, “aphron” conveys the idea of a fool being one who cannot fully take a deep breath and enjoy all that they have set aside for themselves. Describe a time when you were not able to enjoy the blessings God has given you.

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## PRAY

**Pray for each other:** Pray that Jesus would reveal any areas where you might be withholding your power from blessing others. Pray that God will reveal areas where you can use your power to bless others.

**Pray for our country:** Pray for our government leaders that they will seek to use their power in ways that reflects the generous power of God. Pray for the flourishing of America.

**Pray for your four:** Identify four people who don't know Jesus (friends, family, neighbors, or co-workers/classmates), and commit to pray for them consistently Pray that **(1)** God would reveal Jesus to them, **(2)** that God would turn their hearts towards Him, **(3)** that God would put Christians in their path to represent Christ, and **(4)** that God would give you an opportunity to share what Christ has done in your life.

## ACTION STEPS

Explore some tangible ways this week where you might use your power to help someone else:

- Give a financial gift to someone who cannot return the favor.
- Use your position as a parent or leader to find a way to serve others by investing some formal or informal time helping them.

## NOTES

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