

Never Enough
Never Enough Power- Week #4
Small Group Notes
January 30 and February 2

Main Point: Never enough power is dealing with how much we try to control things in our lives.

Introduction:

What are some things in this world that seem to be completely out of your control?

How do you respond in situations that feel out of your control? Do you manipulate or allow the Lord to work?

**What is the relationship that you see between control and power?
What is the relationship of control and faith?**

Context: After Absalom murdered Amnon for what he did to Tamar, there was a time when Absalom fled from David for fear of his actions (2 Samuel 13:21-39). Eventually, Absalom would be restored to David (2 Samuel 14). When we come to 2 Samuel 15, we begin to see how the people of Israel began to look at Absalom in a different way leading to an eventually rebellion against David as a result of passivity and a desire for control.

What was something from the sermon or video that stood out to you?

What was something that challenged you?

Video Discussion:

1. David's response to Amnon and Tamar shows passivity instead of discipline. Therefore, Absalom's control issues were as a result of David's passivity.

Is my personal passivity for some area in my life, fueling someone's control issues? Is there a situation that you are trying to manipulate in your life currently in order to show control?

2. Absalom is the king's son and he had it all and yet it was never enough. If Absalom found contentment

What does it mean to be a son or daughter of the King? What access does that give to us to Jesus and God the Father? How would that have helped Absalom in this situation?

3. David stops and worships on his way of fleeing, and rather than taking the ark, he surrenders to God's plan in the midst of this trial with Absalom.

What is your release point of surrender? Is there a blind spot in your life that God has shown you need to surrender? How can you help remind each other who we are and where God has led you from?

Group Discussion:

1. Read 2 Samuel 15: 1-6

- Personal passivity is a breeding ground for the grip of control.
- Absalom's control issues, were, in part, a reaction to his father's passivity issues.
- We will always struggle with control until we are satisfied with being a son or daughter of the King.

David's passivity in Amnon and Tamar's situation became a breeding ground for Absalom's control issues. What are some circumstances that it may be difficult to submit to someone's authority and it brings about control issues?

Absalom's actions began to show how he was manipulating circumstances. When has there been a time that you tried to manipulate someone else to get your way? Why do we often try to do these things?

2. Read 2 Samuel 15:7-13

- We choose the grip of control when:
 - God's love for us is not enough
 - God's acceptance of us is not enough

- God's worth is not enough
- God's protection is not enough

How would you have felt if you were David and you heard about how Absalom manipulated you in order to lead a rebellion? Why do we often engage in selfishness and manipulation with the ones we are closest to?

The term in the sermon and video is about a grip of control we demonstrate. What is something you are holding onto in your grip of control? How is the Lord showing you that it is not enough compared to Him?

3. Read 2 Samuel 15: 14-21, 25-26

- We will always struggle with the grip of control until we find our release point.
- Surrender is the release point that will free you from the grip of control
- Contentment is ultimately not about control but about surrender.

Rather than fighting against a rebellion, David flees to protect himself and others. How do these verses demonstrate David's need to trust in the Lord's timing? What are some situations that the Lord is helping to remove you from to teach you to trust in Him?

From the sermon and discussion, how does surrendering our control bring about contentment?

Do:

Reflect on today's study: what is in your grip of control? Share this with someone and spend time in prayer about how to release this grip to surrender.

What has been a lesson for your life from this series you could share with others? What does pursuing satisfaction in the Lord look like in your life?