

LIFE GROUP GUIDELINE TERM 1 WEEK 1

4 February 2010



POWER UNLIMITED – BIG GOD

Living in the Power of God

Ice-Breaker

Share any experience you had during the holidays where God came through for you in a miraculous way.

Worship

See worship booklet.

Word and Discussion

Bob Mumford testifies that after he got saved, God miraculously answered every prayer even while he was asking. He was in the navy and needed an alarm clock because he wanted to get up early to pray. While still asking God, there was a knock on his cabin door and another soldier offered him an alarm clock that he himself did not need.

Two years later Bob asked God for something else and he did not receive it until a couple of months went by. Bob asked God about this. God responded that Bob needed to grow in faith and maturity and said if He always responded through sudden miracles, it would not help him to grow in persistence and maturity.

Discussion:

As a group, share your own experiences when God immediately responded to every request you made. Is it still like that, or do you find that you require more endurance and persistence to break through in answered prayer?

- Sudden miracles

Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, you are looking for me, not because you saw miraculous signs but because you ate the loaves and had your fill.

John 6:26 (NIV)

- There are times when we experience *sudden miracles* from God because He is gracious and loving. We must however take care that our lifestyle is not that of living from one crisis to the next, always needing God to bail us out by performing a miracle.
- Such a lifestyle can cause us to become 'lazy believers' – always needing a quick answer and immediate attention like babies.
- After feeding the multitudes, Jesus was concerned that they were more interested in a free meal than in Him as a Person. He was concerned that they were developing a 'free meal dependency' instead of following Him. This requires a change of lifestyle.

- Process miracles

I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms...

Ephesians 1:18-20

- Throughout the Bible God gave many promises which required His power in order to be fulfilled. A promise is usually followed by a process which includes obedience and faith on our part and a divine lining up of circumstances by Him.
- Although God's power is always for us, He is more interested in shaping our characters, for us to become Christ-like. We then learn to live in His power and not just cry for it when we are in need.
- All the great men of God in the Bible had to work out the process with God in order to become effective in His calling on their lives.

Discussion:

- What happened to the following men as God prepared them, by taking them through a process, before they experienced the breakthrough-power of God:
 - Moses;
 - David;
 - Joseph; and
 - Paul.
- Discuss how the working of the process and the manifestation of the miraculous are found in pregnancy and farming.
- What were the processes involved in the following situations before God's power manifested?
 - The battle of Jericho – Joshua 6:1-16; and
 - Jesus turning water into wine – John 2:3-10

Conclusion

As we commit our lives to His process, we will see the miraculous because He says, 'Work My process; I'll work the miracles.'

Prayer Focus

- Pray for each other in line with Ephesians 1:18-20:
 - Pray for a deeper understanding of our calling;
 - Pray for a deeper understanding of our inheritance; and
 - Pray for a deeper understanding of the exceeding greatness of God's power that is available for us so, that we can live as true ambassadors of His Kingdom.
- Trust the Lord for a multiplication of changed lives in our church and for a greater release of His miracle power through us.