

Broken Signposts (7 of 7)
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the sermons page at our website and at the Grantham Church Podcast the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, April 9th 2023



Sermon Series: Broken Signposts | Lent 2023 Sermon Series

Sermon Title: The Power of the Cross & Empty Tomb

Scripture Reading: John 19:1-16, 20:19-23; 1 Corinthians 1:18; Colossians 2:15

Sermon Focus: We can't get along in this world without utilizing power. We use power to arrange and order society; to create and build; to get things done and move things forward. But unfortunately, power is often wielded to bring death, not life. On Easter Sunday, in the final message of our series, Pastor David invites us to believe and embody the mystery of God's power as seen in the cross and resurrection of Christ.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group in person or by video call. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Read John 19:1-16 together. What do you notice about the power struggle in this narrative. Compare and contrast the power of Jesus with the power displayed by the Sanhedrin and Pilate. How does this story highlight the futility and evil of trying to rule through fear, intimidation, violence, etc.? What does John want us to see?
2. In 1 Corinthians 1:18, the Apostle Paul said: "The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." He also says the cross is the "wisdom" of God (vs.20-25). Why is the message of Jesus' death and resurrection "foolishness" to the world? As a disciple, how is it "the power of God" to you? What do you think Paul means?
3. Pastor David has said that many people in American society want to view everything through the lens of power. It is a Nietzschean ("will to power") worldview that pervades our thinking today. Because of this, truth claims are nothing more than weapons we use to gain the upper hand over our opponent. How do you see this extreme worldview harming society and culture today?
4. N.T. Wright says that humans were made to exercise power, but *true* power is about self-giving love. We only need to look at Jesus to see how God uses his power and wants us as image-bearers to use our power and influence in the world. How does this view challenge secular perspectives on power? Also, what would it look like for the Church to use her power in the way of Jesus? Be specific.
5. Are you using your power and influence to further God's Kingdom on the earth? What ways are you doing that? Also, how might the Lord be inviting you to trust less in sword-power (power-over) and more in cross-power (power-under)?
6. Take a few minutes to slowly read Romans 8:11 several times in silence together. What words or phrases jump out at you? What brings you comfort? What it is that challenges you about this verse? And how is God speaking to you through it? Share what God is saying to you with the group at the end of the reflection time.
7. We encourage you to identify the spiritual needs and requests in your group and take a few minutes to close in a time of prayer. Ask one person to start and one person to close in prayer. The members of the group can pray as they feel led.