

## GUIDE:

- CHECK-INS: Introductions, check-in
- CARE: Needs in the group
- COMPASSION: What is the group planning? Are you inviting neighbours to join in?
- GROUP ANNOUNCEMENTS Church-wide and group-only
- DIG IN: "Ice-breaker" question (group facilitator), discuss questions as a group
- PRAYER: Final questions, prayer huddles for personal requests. Consider breaking into small groups (huddles) of 2-4, by gender, if large enough.

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Please use the "Center-Set Church" videos and discussion guide. There are five videos and accompanying questions.

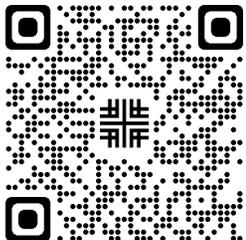


# PENTECOST

## PENTECOSTAL POWER: POWER GAMES OR EMPOWERING GAMES?

Following Jesus on your own will be a failure. Full Stop. Jesus calls us to give allegiance to him, but we are called to operate with a NEW kind of power. How do we learn about that power? Where does it come from? How can it be different and destructive like the misuse of power we see all around us? Discover how to move from power games to another kind of relationship with power. There is power in the name of Jesus.

*John 14:8-17 [25-27], Luke 24:49, Acts 1:8*



## CONNECT

- Need Prayer?
- Ask Questions
- Get information
- Make Comments
- Meet with Pastor Shel
- Sign-up for our weekly e-newsletter
- Join a Home Church

## POWER TO WALK RIGHT, POWER TO STAY, POWER TO SHARE

“The promise of the Spirit does not come to completely faithful, courageous people, already loving one another and the world boldly, already worshiping in spirit and truth. It comes in the midst of confusion and fear, which has made them unable to grasp what he is saying, and it is the answer to that. Jesus makes the promise of the Spirit, emerging from the mutual love of the Father and Son for one another and for us, into which they and we are invited, at the very moment when such grace seems most beyond their grasp and ours. In this text Jesus tells them that simply in their love for this person they know, they are opening their hearts to the presence of God in them in the form of another Advocate, the Spirit of truth, who will guide them and embolden them for love.” John 14:8-17 [25-27] -Meda Stamper

## POWER?

## POWER GAMES OR EMPOWERING GAMES?

- **If we stay in the game of life with Him, there is a different power we can live by.** There is power in the name of Jesus. (John 15, “If you ask in My name”.)
  
- **We pray in “the Name of Jesus”, this means:**
  - Invoking His name - specifically naming God as Jesus, is powerful
  - According to His Character and teaching - the Gospels.
  - Because of his victory on the cross, verified in the resurrection, and expanded in the sending of the Holy Spirit to ALL who will wait and receive.

## VIEWS OF POWER

- Limited
- Unlimited - Superabundance
  - “God’s abundance [Superabundance], however, is radically different from the American consumerist concept of affluence that makes people feel anxious and insufficient. It is offered, says [Walter] Brueggemann, where scarcity is severely experienced as “the wondrous gift” that is the good news “that brings the new future to effect and the new energy to birth.”<sup>3</sup> In other words, God embraces those who live in lowly places and grants “excessively abundant” grace to them. God’s engagement with them through “vulnerable solidarity”<sup>4</sup> (2 Cor 8:9, “. . . though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.”) makes the margins of society the loci where we witness God’s superabundant grace. God invites us not to the center of affluence and satiation but to the margins in scarcity to experience the richness of God’s superabundance and to be endlessly amazed and grateful for that.” -Eunjoo Mary Kim

## “WAIT AND PLAY [PRAYER IS IMAGINATIVE PLAY]”

- God’s Power is Received and Renewed by “holding space” for the Holy Spirit and making yourself present
  
- “Wait until...”

**NEXT STEPS: Power to speak, stay, transformation (sanctify)**