

EMPOWERED | 2-21-16

REFLECT & DISCUSS

Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John...all unlikely saints who wrote stories about the ministry of Jesus which became Gospels used to change the lives of billions. That's lasting impact! We can follow in their footsteps because we are just as unlikely as them. God considers the unlikely more likely to make a lasting impact. Why? Because the unlikely realize they aren't strong enough on their own. They need to be empowered. To empower means to *"Make someone stronger and more confident, especially in controlling their life and claiming their rights."* Share about a time in your life when you felt weak and someone helped you get stronger. How has God done this for you? When we allow God to empower us, we grow in confidence, self-control, and initiative. Pray together for the Holy Spirit to empower you so you can grow in these three ways.

READ: *1 John 2:6*

How did Jesus live His life? What habits do you see as you read about Him the Gospels? Share one story you remember about His life or ministry. Is it possible to live the same way He did? Share one way someone you know is living like Jesus.

READ: *John 12:12, Romans 8:11*

Considering all the miracles Jesus did, it's hard to imagine that we could do even greater things than Jesus did. Do you really think we can do the same and greater works than Jesus did? Why/why not? What are some modern-day miracles you have witnessed (think outside the box!)? How has the Holy Spirit empowered you to do things you didn't think you could do?

READ: *John 12:13-14, 1 John 5:13-15*

Along with empowering us, the Holy Spirit wants to empower our prayers. What does Jesus promise us He will do in these verses? What is important to note in 1 John 5:14? How should this affect the way we pray? How do these promises grow our trust and confidence in Christ?

CHALLENGE

Read and journal about 1 John 3:16-19. What is real love? What is the difference between good intentions and actions? Why is it important to intentionally love through our actions? What is God calling you to sacrifice to bring others new life?

PRAYER

Holy Spirit, I want to be empowered by You so I can live like Christ. I admit, I can't do that in my own strength. I am limited without your power within me. Thank you for empowering me to have spiritual confidence, practice self-control, and intentionally love others.

Written by John Grandy, Dalton Campus Pastor