

Study Series: Pray Big

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 Lesson Title: “Pray for Riches and Power” (pp. 31-42)

Session 3

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The main point of this lesson is: The believer’s prayer for oneself and others should seek the riches and power God says is theirs.

Focus on this goal: To help adults claim the riches of their inheritance and power in Jesus

Key Bible Passage: Ephesians 1:14,18-22; 3:16

Before the Session

1. Scramble the word inheritance on the board. (Step 2)

2. Enlist a learner to lead a three-to-five-minute discussion about a Christian’s inheritance. (Step 2)

3. Enlist a learner to share a brief testimony about calling on God’s power in a powerless situation. (Step 5)

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Ask participants to identify two things in life people are looking for. State that many people dream of being rich or being powerful.

Ask rhetorically: Would it surprise you that Paul prayed for both riches and power for Christians?

Call on a volunteer to read Ephesians 1:18-19.

Step 2. Pray for Riches, Part 1

Ask: How can a Christian be rich? State that riches for a believer are not tied to earthly possessions or money. Instead, riches for a believer are tied to our (point to the scrambled word on the board and challenge participants to unscramble the word).

Call on volunteers to read these verses about the Christian’s inheritance: Ephesians 1:14; Colossians 1:11-12; and 1 Peter 1:3-5.

Call on the person enlisted earlier to discuss what it means for a Christian to have an inheritance. Guide learners to discuss how our earthly inheritances might compare or contrast with our spiritual inheritance (Day One, activity 1, p. 31).

Step 3. Pray for Riches, Part 2

Explain that the Christian concept of inheritance is a two-sided coin. Draw two large circles on the board to depict a coin. Ask learners to identify the two sides of the coin: (1) We inherit God and (2) God inherits us.

Call on volunteers to read Malachi 3:16-17 and Psalm 33:1,12, which describe the truths that God inherits us and we are His treasured possession. State that sometimes we get so focused living in the here-and-now—even with its struggles and challenges—that we lose focus on our future inheritance with God.

Ask learners to think about their present challenges and discuss how looking to our future with God can invigorate our present-day lives (Day Two, activity 1, p. 34).

Step 4. Pray for Power, Part 1

Ask: On a scale of 1 to 10, how powerful do you feel?

Call on a volunteer to read 1 Corinthians 2:3. State that even the apostle Paul felt weak and powerless, but he knew the power that is ours through God.

Point out that there are three aspects to this power as described in Ephesians 1:19-22. Organize the class into three groups, assigning each group one aspect of God’s power: resurrection (Acts 2:30-32,36), exaltation (Heb. 10:12), and dominion (Eph. 1:22). (Note: This activity encompasses aspects of both Day Three and Day Four in the Learner Guide.)

Acknowledge that these three aspects are sometimes difficult to understand. Direct groups to discuss practical applications of each facet of power in the Christian’s life, answering the question: What difference does it make that God’s power that (1) resurrected Christ, (2) exalted Him and (3) gave Him dominion over all things is available to Christians today? (Day Three, activity 2, p. 36)

After time for discussion, call on groups to report.

Step 5. Pray for Power, Part 2

Refer back to the scale of how powerful learners feel. Ask: As you consider the three aspects of God’s power available to those who believe, how might you change your answer regarding your personal feelings of power?

Call on the learner enlisted earlier to share his or her testimony about calling on God’s power in a humanly powerless situation.

In the same groups, encourage learners to share their brief testimonies of calling on God’s power personally (Day Four, Discussion Question, p. 38).

Step 6. Pray for Power, Part 3

Call on volunteers to read Luke 24:46-49 and Acts 1:8. Draw attention to the promise of God’s power in these verses. State that the disciples were powerless—until they received God’s power and drove the mission of the church from Jerusalem throughout the Roman world.

Read this quote from the author (p. 40): “When you come to the end of your power, that is where you find His. And when you do, you’ll find it immeasurable, and therefore it is enough.” Ask: Do we necessarily have to come to the end of our power in order to find God’s power?

Call on learners to share how they completed Day Five, activity 2 (p. 40).

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

Close in prayer, praying that learners may know the abundant riches and immeasurable power that is ours through God and might live in such a way as to demonstrate those riches and power.

After the Session

Continue to pray Paul’s prayer in Ephesians 1:16-23 for learners in your class as well as other Christians you know.

