



Week One: Power Failure

Power is such a source of tension in any relationship. Especially in marriage. Believe it or not, it wasn't always that way. This week we'll explore how power and desire create a tension between men and women, where that came from. We'll gain some insight from the Bible that help us understand the dynamic of what's going on with the opposite gender.

Discussion Questions

1. Ask the women in your group what they find frustrating about the opposite sex. Then ask the men what they find most frustrating about women. We're sure you'll have some fun with the conversation! But also take some time to hear the real issues underlying the discussion.
2. In what ways have you tried to create a better understanding and a healthier relationship with the opposite sex? What has worked for you? What hasn't?
3. As a group, read through Genesis 3:1-19. This chapter describes how sin entered the world. At the center this struggle is an exchange between a man and a woman. Why do you think Adam and Eve stopped listening to God and took power and control of their lives into their own hands? In what ways have you seen that pattern reflected in your own life?
4. Outline the impact of Adam and Eve's sin as described in verses 7-19? What areas of life has sin impacted?
5. Study verse 16 closely. Read different translations if you can. Focus in on the part of the verse that says "Your desire will be for your husband, but he will rule over you" (NIV) or, in the New Living Translation, "You will desire to control your husband, but he will rule over you." In what ways have you felt a tension between desire, control and power in your relationship with the opposite sex? How has that tension impacted your relationship?
6. To what extent does Genesis 3 describe some of the struggles you face in your own life and in your relationship with the opposite sex?
7. How do you think the story would have played out if Adam and Eve had submitted to God rather than to their own judgment?
8. How has failing to submit to God cost you?

Changing Your Mind

As you go through your week, pay careful attention to how you struggle with power, desire, control and the opposite sex. Do you find yourself being selfish at times in the way you treat your partner? Do you ever desire to control the other person? In what ways do you want to "rule over" others? How do these dynamics frustrate the relationships in your life? Mostly this week, just watch for these and other patterns described in Genesis 3. In the next two weeks, we'll learn what we can do about them.

Taking it Home

"Then [God] said to the woman...You will desire to control your husband, but he will rule over you." Genesis 3.16.