

# EASTER WEEK

March 24	THE COMING KING 9&11AM
March 28	THE AGONIZING KING 6:30PM
March 29	THE CRUCIFIED KING 6:30PM
March 31	THE RISEN KING 8AM 10AM 12PM

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# THE GOSPEL-CENTERED LIFE

JESUS EPHESIANS 1:20-23

### Through the ascension, Jesus is unbound by the space-time continuum And is present to and for all people at all times.

WEEK 4

We connect power to preeminence. For instance, a baseball player's home run-hitting provess, a financier's purchasing power, or a politician's party prominence leads us to connect their power to a position of supremacy, their preeminent role in their respective field. Well, there is no one more powerful and preeminent than Jesus. Paul has been praying that the church of Ephesus would understand how Jesus empowers the powerless. He can do that not only because of His raw power but also because of His place of preeminence and authority. You can have power without authority and authority without power, but Jesus has both power and authority. He has the ability and the unrestricted right to do what He wants, where He wants, and when He wants. As Paul says, He has power and authority over death. Not only that, but He sits in the supreme place of power at the right hand of God. His name is more powerful than any other name, and all things have been placed under His feet, and they are subject to Him. There is no one like Jesus! He is also the Father's gift to the church, His body—a people He fills with all His fulness.

### (10 min) OPENING PRAYER

Ask God to permeate your time with His presence. Pray that God would enlighten the eyes of your heart so that you might know the power and authority of Jesus and how that impacts your life and His church.

### (25 min) TIME TO CONSIDER

As you've had the opportunity to reflect on what God has spoken to you through this week's lesson, consider these questions as a group and discuss them.

1. Based on the teaching, describe the difference between power and authority. Jesus has both power and authority. What implications does this have for you as a Christian?

## Philippians 2:9-10 Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

2. Jesus ascended far above every rule, authority, power, and dominion and above every name. As a Christian, what does that mean about demonic influences and their control over your life?

## Colossians 2:15 God disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him (Jesus).

3. What does it mean to operate in the power and authority of Jesus' name? Have you been living your life in His power and authority? In what ways do you and in what ways don't you?

### Jesus sends his followers out and directs them to influence the world with His gospel in His name and by His authority.

### WEEKLY MEMORIZATION VERSES: Matthew 28:18 "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations."

**EXPERIENCING THE SPIRIT TOGETHER:** Spend time as a life group praying and discussing the key things that emerge from your discussion of this week's questions. Jesus is the Father's gift to the church. Jesus fills His church with all His fulness. No one Christian represents all the fullness of Jesus, but collectively, as His body, we do. Encourage one another to live the full and flourishing life that Jesus provides. Discuss how it takes all of us to complete the complete image of Christ to the world.

### (5 min) LIVE IT

Be intentional about centering each day this week around the presence of Christ in your life. Begin each day in prayer and dedicate daily time to reading Scripture. Live to the fullness of Christ's power and authority this week in each area mentioned in the Scriptures we studied. Anticipate a week of joy, strength, and power.