

# Practice Guide for November 9<sup>th</sup> 2025

Sacred Trusts, pt. 4—The Gift of Power

## Suggested Ice Breaker (5 minutes)

If you could have one superpower, what would it be and how would you use it?

## Opening Lectio (10 minutes)

Begin with a moment of silence to center on God's presence.

Have someone read Psalm 62:10-12 (NIV) slowly while the group listens and reflects:

*One thing God has spoken,  
two things I have heard:  
"Power belongs to you, God,  
and with you, Lord, is unfailing love";  
and, "You reward everyone  
according to what they have done."*

After another moment of silence, invite someone to pray, asking the Spirit to teach the group to hold power humbly and use it faithfully.

## Reflecting On Scripture (15 minutes)

Have someone read Philippians 2:1–11 and Genesis 1:26–28 aloud for the group.

Take a moment of silence after each reading to notice what stands out.

### Questions for Discussion:

1. What do these passages reveal about God's design for power and what it's meant to accomplish?
2. How does Jesus' humility in Philippians 2 reshape our understanding of being made in God's image?
3. What might it look like to reflect that kind of power; creating space for others to live, grow, and flourish in our own relationships or leadership?

## Community Practice (25 minutes)

Slowly read this quote aloud:

*"When it is rightly used, power makes possible most of what makes us truly human. When it is misused, it puts all of us at tremendous risk." —Andy Crouch*

*"What makes the temptation to abuse power so seemingly irresistible? Maybe it is that power offers an easy substitute for the hard task of love. It seems easier to be God than to love God, easier to control people than to love people." —Henri Nouwen*

Take 3-5 minutes to journal a response to these questions:

1. Where has God entrusted me with power or influence (in relationships, work, ministry, or family)?
2. In what ways might I be tempted to control, rather than create space for others to flourish?
3. What would it look like to “go low and love well” like Jesus in a conversation or relationship with a power dynamic this week?

Share your answers in groups of two or three.

**Group Discussion:**

- When have you seen someone use their position or voice to make room for someone else? What did that stir in you?
- What helps you stay humble and self-aware when you’re in a position of influence?
- How can our group actively create space for others to grow, lead, and flourish?

**Closing Prayer (5 minutes)**

Close your time by slowly praying this ancient fourth century prayer from St. Ephrem the Syrian:

*O Lord and Master of my life,  
take from me the spirit of sloth,  
despair, lust of power, and idle talk.*

*But give rather the spirit of chastity,  
humility, patience, and love to Thy servant.*

*Yea, O Lord and King,  
grant me to see my own transgressions,  
and not to judge my brother,  
for blessed art Thou, unto ages of ages.  
Amen.*

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**Further Reading:**

- *Playing God: Redeeming the Gift of Power* by Andy Crouch
- *In the Name of Jesus* by Henri J. M. Nouwen
- *Power, Providence, and Personality* by Walter Brueggemann