

WITNESS – Reaching out to others
(Aim for 20 – 30 minutes)

Giving Thanks to God

The crowd praised God in response to Jesus' power and authority. Thank God for the different times we have been aware of God's power or authority.

Praying for one another

What has struck you as we have looked at this study? Pray for the person on your right.

Praying for our community

How would Hungerford be different if we really believed in the power and authority of Jesus? Pray for Hungerford.

MATTHEW

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Matthew 8.1 - 9.17

The Powers of the King

Purpose: To see the power of the King & to learn to please him by growing in faith.

These two chapters are a collection of the miracles Jesus did. Matthew has organized the miracles to show that Jesus, as the King of the kingdom of heaven, has authority over everything and everyone. These chapters also emphasize faith. Faith is the proper response to the authority of the King. Faith allows us to receive his authority and opens the knowledge of the kingdom to us.

WELCOME – Breaking the ice *(Aim for 10 minutes)*

Think of someone in your life whom you respect. Why do you respect that person?

WORSHIP – Meeting the Lord *(Aim for 10 – 15 minutes)*

THE EXAMEN

1. **Become aware of God's presence** - take some time to remember that God is present with us in our everyday lives. He has been near to you and with you throughout the events of your day. Invite the Holy Spirit.
2. **Review the day with gratitude** - what are you thankful for?
3. **Pay attention to your emotions** - St. Ignatius emphasised how our emotions can point to the presence of God. Reflect upon how you felt throughout your day. What might God be saying to you through these emotions?
4. **Choose one thing from the day and pray for it**

WORD – Applying the truth
(Aim for 40 – 45 minutes)

Someone once commented about a U.S. president: “I don't know where he is going, but I sure like the way he leads.”

Leaders must demonstrate authority. But wise leaders know they must not abuse their authority. They know people follow leaders who also demonstrate integrity and compassion.

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus impressed the crowd with his authoritative teaching. In chapters 8 and 9 he demonstrates that he is a worthy King, one in whom we can safely put our trust.

1. Read Matthew 8:1–22.

Lepers were outcasts in Jewish society and were required to shout “Un clean, unclean!” wherever they went. What impresses you about Jesus' encounter with the man in verses 1–4?

2. Look at the centurion's response to Jesus (vv. 5–13). Why is Jesus pleased?

3. In verses 18–22 Jesus begins to attract would-be followers. What do these verses teach us about the cost and urgency of following him?

4. Read Matthew 8:23–9:17.

The disciples' fear of the furious storm seems natural (8:23–27). Why do you think Jesus views it as a lack of faith?

5. After what had happened to the demon-possessed men, why do you think the townspeople pleaded with Jesus to leave their region (vv. 28–34)?

6. What is the relationship between Jesus' claim to have authority to forgive sins and his healing of the paralytic (9:1–8)?

7. In verses 9–17 Jesus compares himself to a doctor and a bridegroom. Then he discusses garments and wine skins. What do these illustrations teach us about his ministry?

8. Look back over chapters 8–9. How does Jesus want us to respond to his power and authority?

9. How can a knowledge of Jesus' power and authority strengthen our faith?

*From Matthew: Being Discipled by Jesus by Stephen & Jacalyn Eyre.
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