

Digging Deeper into The Pastoral Principles: Pay attention to power

Held together in the love of Christ: principles for living and learning well together

The purpose of this course is to help church communities to examine afresh their life and learning together in the face of difference and diversity. In this course we are invited to think about the things which impair relationships. This week we're thinking about 'power'.

(The Archbishop's Council, 2021)



Chat

- Can you think of any situations in our country or world where inequalities of power have led to abuses?
- Who do you think holds power in church communities?

Study

Read Mark 10:35-45

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Mark+10&version=NIV>

- What do James and John ask Jesus to do for them (v.37)?
- How does this make the other disciples feel (v.41)?
- What is the 'cup' and 'baptism' Jesus refers to (v.38 and see Mt.26:37-39)?
 - What is Jesus saying about what he has to go through before he is exalted in heaven?
- Jesus uses this situation to teach the disciples an important point about leadership and power.
 - What is the example he tells them *not* to follow (v.42-43)?
 - How are they to behave instead (v.43-44)?
 - Who is the example they should follow (v.45)?

Think

In terms of living and learning well together, it is important that we don't just listen to people who seem to be the most powerful and that we don't make others feel as if our views are more important than theirs because of a position of power we may have.

- How could Jesus' example help us here?

