




# Jesus and POWER

Read one or more of the following Bible passages and answer the questions. Write your answers on the back of the worksheet or in your books.

<p><b>Matthew 4:1-10</b></p> 	<p><i>Having spent forty days in the wilderness without food, Jesus is visited by the Devil who tempts him to turn stones into food and feed himself. Jesus is then tempted to display his power to people by throwing himself off the temple roof, secure in the knowledge that angels would rescue him. Lastly, he is tempted to reject His Father in order to rule the world himself.</i></p>	<p><b>Answer the following questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why didn't Jesus go along with the Devil's ideas?</li> <li>• What is the significance of the fact that each time Jesus answers the Devil, he refers to passages from the Old Testament?</li> <li>• Sum up why you think Jesus took the decisions he did instead of using his power.</li> </ul>
<p><b>John 13:3-9</b></p> 	<p><i>Jesus knew that his Father had given him complete power (v3). This is the context for Jesus giving this amazing display of humility. It would normally have been a servant's job to wash the feet of visitors.</i></p>	<p><b>Answer the following questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why do you think Peter was so horrified at Jesus' actions?</li> <li>• What would normally happen in these situations? Can you think of an equivalent scenario in our own day? (What about your Head Teacher bringing you your dinner while you sit at a table at lunchtime?)</li> <li>• In what ways could this story about Jesus be compared to the Christmas story of Jesus being born as a baby in Bethlehem's stable?</li> <li>• Think about v3. Do you think Jesus' knowledge of what was going to happen to him made any difference to how he served his disciples in this episode? What does this passage tell us about Jesus?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Mark 10:35-37 and 41-44</b></p> 	<p><i>The disciples are frequently seen arguing about their relative importance (for example, see also Mark 9:33-37). Even in the light of Jesus telling them about his impending arrest and execution, James and John still seem more concerned about their place in the pecking order once Jesus takes charge. Jesus points out that unlike other figures of authority who 'lord it over' others, in his Kingdom leadership means being a servant to others.</i></p>	<p><b>Answer the following questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What did James and John want from Jesus?</li> <li>• How do their desires seem to conflict with what Jesus was telling them in v33-34?</li> <li>• Why might the other disciples (v41) have been annoyed with James and John?</li> <li>• How does Jesus describe the normal behaviour of people in power? (v42)</li> <li>• In what way is his example different from normal behaviour?</li> <li>• How does Jesus demonstrate that he is personally committed to the idea of leadership as service? (v45)</li> </ul>