



Sons of Thunder

BIG IDEA SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Small groups that focus on the Big Idea for the week can use this guide to apply the message to life and take action. Feel free to use whatever parts of this guide best fit your group personality and time frame. Do NOT feel like you have to use every question. All verses, unless otherwise noted, are from the New International Version (NIV).

05.01/02.10 // Sons of Thunder

BiG iDEA: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty.

// Ice Breaker _____

Option 1: Who are your favorite superheroes in the movies? What are your favorite superhero powers? What superpower would you like to have? (Fly like Superman, Strength like the Hulk, climb like Spiderman, etc)

Option 2: Were you ever involved in a sport or activity where you had to be in peak physical shape? What was that experience like? What were the pro's and con's?

// Questions for Discussion _____

- 1. Zechariah 4:6** 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty. **These words were spoken to the leader of Israel. The Israelites were often tempted to trust in their own physical, military strength.**
What do you think is meant by this verse?
How can one balance relying on God and working hard her/himself?
- 2. Philippians 4:13**
I can do everything through him who gives me strength.
Sometimes things seem too difficult to accomplish in our own strength.
How does God give us a "strength beyond ourselves" in our everyday lives?
Have the group share some examples of how God has worked in their lives.
- 3. 1 Corinthians 9: 22 - 23**
To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.
The Sons of Thunder do amazing feats to get people interested and then talk to them about Jesus. They referenced this as "bait" as they go "fishing for men," as Jesus said.
What are some advantages of doing this? What is Paul's point in 1 Corinthians 9?
What are some other kinds of bait we can use as we fish for men?

4. **Philippians 4:8**

Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

The Sons of Thunder talked about the principle: “garbage in, garbage out.” Like our choice of food, we can either make ourselves stronger or weaker physically.

Why should we be careful in what we watch, read and listen to?

What are some practical ways or standards to control what we take in?

5. **1 Corinthians 6: 19, 20**

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body

1 Timothy 4:8

For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.

How should we treat our bodies? Why?

What are the benefits of physical fitness vs. spiritual fitness?

What can we do to get better spiritually fit?

6. **1 Corinthians 7: 7**

... But each man has his own gift from God; one has this gift, another has that.

The Sons of Thunder have gifts from God that they use for Him.

What are some other unique gifts that God gives us?

What do you think is the difference between God-given gifts and things we're just good at, and work hard at?

What are some examples of how all gifts—both “spiritual” and “natural”—be used for God?

8. **2 Timothy 1:7**

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

Galatians 5: 22, 23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Jesus was our example in being meek (gentle, humble, kind). Some think of meekness as weakness. But actually it refers to having strength under control.

Can you think of some times when Jesus kept his power under control?

When might we feel timid, and need that spirit of power?

// **Application** _____

Commit to memory Zechariah 4:6

.. 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty.

Be ready to welcome newcomers to Southpoint with friendly smiles and loving hospitality.

// **Prayer** _____

Those who commit their lives to Christ during the Sons of Thunder event would become 3C Christians (Committed, Connected, Contributing)

We would make any newcomer to Southpoint feel like part of the family.

