



GEEKS UNDER GRACE

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POWER RANGERS (2017) | UNITY FROM DISUNITY | BIBLE STUDY

Regards to Content:

This film has been rated PG-13 by the MPAA for sequences of sci-fi violence, action and destruction, language, and for some crude humor

Facilitator Note: *We encourage facilitators to take this Bible study and expound on it throughout the week. Do not allow it to be simply a one-time meeting, but a springboard for deeper conversation and personal meditation throughout the week.*

PRESS START

Power Rangers (2017) updates the original team, their suits, the Zords, and even how certain characters appear and function in the story. **What updates do you think were most needed? Were you pleased with the “new take” on the classic concept? How eager are you for more Power Rangers films based on this reboot?**

EQUIP

While the original TV show featured five “teenagers with attitude,” **Power Rangers (2017)** goes to great lengths to establish that each of the main characters are dealing with real world issues. Whether alienation from peers, issues at home, or disciplinary problems, the Rangers only become a team due to circumstances calling them together at the appropriate time. The team of Rangers consists of five fallible adolescents; we can’t expect them to have everything figured out. All the same, both Jason and Kimberly make very poor decisions in the film. Billy, in particular, wars with feelings of inadequacy, due to years of taunting from bullies about his autism. Outside of his responsibility at home with his mother, Zack’s life seems aimless, and Trini struggles greatly to connect with others.

I’m sure we can all relate to these universal struggles on some level. We aren’t perfect, but, like the Rangers, we can be more and do more when we support each other and come together. The team is only able to function when they form close friendships among themselves and trust each other. **What factors make it difficult for you to relate to other people? What steps can you take, personally, to make trusting/connecting with other people easier?**

LEVEL UP

Let's dig into some Scriptures that show who we are as individuals and why we are more when we are together:

Romans 3:23 (NKJV) ²³ *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

James 3:2 (NKJV) ² *For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.*

Universality of sinfulness aside, no one is perfect or has it all together. Oftentimes, in this fallen world, it is difficult to work with others when selfish endeavors take precedence in our lives. Selfishness can lead us to push each other's buttons, rather than encourage each other.

Philippians 3:12-21 (NKJV) ¹² *Not that I have already attained, or am already perfected; but I press on, that I may lay hold of that for which Christ Jesus has also laid hold of me.* ¹³ *Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead,* ¹⁴ *I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.* ¹⁵ *Therefore let us, as many as are mature, have this mind; and if in anything you think otherwise, God will reveal even this to you.* ¹⁶ *Nevertheless, to the degree that we have already attained, let us walk by the same rule, let us be of the same mind.* ¹⁷ *Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.* ¹⁸ *For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: ¹⁹ whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame--who set their mind on earthly things.* ²⁰ *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.*

In **v.12**, Paul is basically saying, "I know I'm not perfect, but I don't give up on trying to be more than I am." Just as Kimberly had to move beyond the past that held her down, we've got to move forward... together, with others. We have a part to play in a larger team: Christ's church.

How do we get there? We must train like the Rangers and "mature." Bringing about unity from disunity doesn't just happen; we have to work at it, and that begins within each of us. In being committed to the Lord, we must also be committed to His vision for us and our place on His "team." Paul says in **v.17** to join his example; we can pattern our lives from godly examples, but we only see those examples clearly when we get serious about our own spiritual training.

Like the gold-hungry Rita Repulsa, there are many who seem to be on the "team," but aren't. Worldliness is their goal, and their lust can never be satisfied (**v.18-19**). Still, they have no bearing on each of us finding our place on God's team.

Just like the Rangers, we can't take that place, "transform" (**v.21**), and suit up for all that lies before us unless we truly connect with each other. The "body" of Christ has many parts (**1 Corinthians 12:12-27**) and if we can't communicate clearly with the other parts, dysfunction will always abound. We must endeavor to grow alongside other believers; our effectiveness comes from coming together.

MOD

Ask: In the modern church, what different roles can people play in ministry? Are there new avenues, unique to our time, that haven't existed until now?

Churches now meet in a variety of ways; it must be stressed that each of us have a place in the Kingdom, doing exactly what we were made to do. Never doubt yourself because of things in your past or even apparent handicaps. God is about perfecting imperfect people, and that means He can take us and use us beyond what we think is possible.

Ask: Do you feel that there are things in the past that still limit you? Can those things be used to make you stronger now?

As we grow, we still have a relationship with our past. We can allow it to trap us, or we can gain from it. Many ministries are built on difficult past experiences. Healthily reflecting on the past with those presently struggling can help many others who are trapped in sin. Today, you may fit one of two criteria: you may have a past experience that can fuel you in a future ministry, or you may be in present circumstances that another believer can relate to so that you can grow together out of those circumstances. Either way, examine where you fit, and endeavor to grow--individually and alongside others.

PRAY

As we close, if you can't say you know your "place" in Christ's church today, we'll pray that each of us come closer to knowing it and growing in that role. Before we do that, are there any other prayer needs we can all pray for?

THE NEXT LEVEL

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 (NKJV) ⁹ *Two are better than one, Because they have a good reward for their labor.* ¹⁰ *For if they fall, one will lift up his companion. But woe to him who is alone when he falls, For he has no one to help him up.* ¹¹ *Again, if two lie down together, they will keep warm; But how can one be warm alone?* ¹² *Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken.*

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