

*Connecting the Sunday Sparkle at Hearsall Baptist with the Daily Dust of Life*

## Preparation

- Before the session, read Judges chapter 19.
- Choose three words to capture your response to this story.

## Welcome

When has the power of people in an official capacity frustrated you or limited your choices? Share an example. How did you feel? How did you respond?

## Worship

- Read Philippians 2: 5 - 11.
- Share examples of people who have used great power in a Jesus-like way.
- Thank God for them and ask for the grace to be like them.

## Word

- Share the three words (or more!) that describe your response to Judges 19. (The story is so unpleasant that I don't suggest you read it aloud in the group.)
- Suggest reasons why this concubine might have left her Levite husband.
- Also suggest reasons why she goes to her father and why he seems so reluctant to let her return to the Levite.
- Try to account for the decision of the Levite to give his concubine to the lecherous mob in Gibeah. What moral framework led him to do this?
- Patriarchy is one pervasive form of power. Throughout many societies and much of history, males have had more power, simply because of their sex, than females. Where does this power originate?
- What does the New Testament ask men to do with their gender-based power? (See Ephesians 5:25 & compare again with the Philippians 2 passage we read in worship.)

- We utterly repudiate the Levite's moral framework as a guide for relations between the sexes. Suggest aspects of a better moral framework for relations between the sexes for us today.

*Men, as well as women, are victims of domestic violence and abuses of power. However, victims are predominantly female and perpetrators predominantly male. We are also becoming increasingly aware of historical examples of highly gifted women whose achievements have been overlooked or attributed to men.*

- Paul wrote of gender becoming irrelevant in God's kingdom (see Galatians 3:28). Who would benefit if gender-based power became a thing of the past? How can we in the church do our little bit to make that happen?

### Respond

Prayerfully consider signs of your own attitude to relations between the sexes. For example, ponder your attitudes to some of these topics considering whether 'in your relationships with one another you have the same mindset as Christ Jesus' (Philippians 2:5):

- Women in leadership positions in the world at large
- Women in leadership in the church - women preachers, worship leaders and pastors
- Driving
- Having sex
- Domestic duties
- Childcare