

Group Leader Guide

At the Movies 2026 – part 1 “Power Ballad”

Sermon Recap

What if the very thing you're chasing to feel significant is actually stealing your true identity? In "The Power Ballad," a stolen song destroys a friendship, but Pastor Chris reveals an even greater theft—how we trade our birthright as children of God for temporary "bowls of soup" like approval, success, or pleasure. Just like Jacob deceived Esau out of his blessing, Satan whispers lies that make us forget we're already completely accepted, totally secure, and deeply significant in Christ. This powerful message exposes the enemy's tactics and reminds you that significance is received, not achieved.

Ice Breaker

If you could instantly become an expert at any hobby in the world, but had to practice it exclusively underwater, which hobby would you choose and why?

Discussion Questions

1. What from the sermon stood out to you? How were you challenged, motivated, or convicted from what you heard?
2. Based on John 1:12 which says, 'to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God,' what does it mean that 'significance is received, not achieved' in Christ?
 - a. Pastor Chris emphasized that we don't have to earn our worth through performance or achievements. Instead, our significance comes from being adopted as God's children through believing in and accepting Jesus.
 - b. How would your daily life change if you truly lived as though your worth came from being God's child rather than from your performance or others' opinions?
3. Pastor Chris compared Esau trading his birthright for a bowl of soup to how we sometimes trade eternal things for temporary pleasures. What are some modern-day 'bowls of soup' that people might be tempted to trade their spiritual inheritance for?
 - a. In Genesis 25, Esau was exhausted and hungry when he traded his valuable birthright to Jacob for some stew. Pastor Chris used this to illustrate how we often give up what's truly valuable for immediate gratification.
 - b. What specific 'bowl of soup' have you been most tempted by in your own life - whether it's approval from others, material success, relationships, or something else?
4. According to John 8:44 and Pastor Chris's teaching, Satan's greatest weapon is lies. What are some common lies that Satan tells people about their identity, and how do these lies lead to destructive behavior?

- a. Pastor Chris explained that Satan is 'the father of lies' and uses deception to steal our identity. He described how believing lies changes how we feel, which then changes how we behave.
 - b. What lie about yourself have you struggled to overcome, and how has God's truth helped you combat that specific lie?
5. Pastor Chris mentioned that identity theft affects millions of people financially but said there's an even more dangerous form happening spiritually. How is spiritual identity theft different from financial identity theft, and why is it more serious?
 - a. The sermon opened by discussing how financial identity theft affects 10 million Americans yearly, but then Pastor Chris argued that spiritual identity theft - where people search for significance in the wrong places - is even more damaging.
 - b. In what ways have you seen people around you (or yourself) fall victim to spiritual identity theft by seeking their worth in things other than God?
6. Pastor Chris ended by saying 'You are a child of the King - now live like it!' What does it practically look like to live as a child of the King in everyday situations like school, work, or relationships?
 - a. The sermon concluded with 1 John 3:1 about being 'children of God' and emphasized that our identity should shape how we live. Pastor Chris called people to stop trading their spiritual inheritance for temporary things.
 - b. What's one specific area of your life where you need to start 'living like' a child of the King instead of seeking approval or significance from other sources?

Prayer

- Ask group members for any prayer requests.
- Pray for wisdom in recognizing when we are trading our spiritual birthright for temporary satisfaction.
- Ask for strength to resist temptation and the lies that challenge our identity in Christ.
- Seek guidance in cultivating a deeper understanding of who we are as children of God.