Name: Section:

**Power of the Church (Day 6)** → Pope Gregory VII

Part One: Context for Struggle between Pope Gregory VII and King Henry IV

Directions: List examples to the answer the Essential Question--

*Why was there a power struggle between Pope Gregory VII and King Henry IV?* (List the examples you find)

Part Two: Summarize the Letter

Directions: You and your group will read the letter of Pope Gregory VII. The letter is broken up into sections. Below each section, summarize what Pope Gregory VII is telling King Henry IV.

**Section One:**

“Thou, and the mother of God, and thy brother St. Paul are witnesses for me among all the saints that thy Holy Roman Church drew me to its helm (made me the leader) against my will; I had no thought of ascending thy (my) chair through force, and that I would rather have ended my life, than by secular (non religious) means, to have seized thy throne.”

**Section Two:**

“For the honor and security of thy (my) church, in the name of Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, I withdraw thy power and authority from thee (you), Henry the king, who has risen against thy church with insolence (disrespect), the rule over the whole kingdom of the Germans and over Italy.”

**Section Three:** “And I absolve (forgive) all Christians from the bonds of the oath, which they have made or shall make to thee (you); and I forbid anyone to serve thee as king. For it is fitting that he who strives to lesson the honor of thy church should himself lose the honor which belongs to him. If anyone holds intercourse with the excommunicated (deals in any way with someone who was excommunicated), therefore spurning (rejecting) my commands, thee shall separate himself from thy church.”

Part Three: Restate Your Letter

Directions: Below, restate the Pope Gregory VII’s argument in contemporary language. You will read this aloud to “King Henry IV”.

Part Four: Overall Question

1. There was an obvious power struggle between the popes and German empires during this time. Could this have lasting implications on Europe? Yes or No? Explain.