

A dark, textured background featuring faint, overlapping images of people in prayerful or contemplative poses, such as kneeling or bowing their heads. A thin white vertical line runs down the center of the page.

JESUS,  
JUSTICE,  
AND AUTHORITY

JESUS' RESPONSE  
TO THE

REAL ISSUES  
OF THE WORLD

**GROUP  
DISCUSSION  
GUIDE**

**Week 1**

# CONNECT

Take sometime to break the ice and choose one of the questions below.

- How was authority exercised in your family growing up? How has that shaped how you view authority now?
- How do you think our culture would define authority? Where do they get it right? Where do they get it wrong
- Ask the discipleship questions at the bottom of the guide.

# INTRODUCTION

For the next seven weeks we will be looking at topics ranging from wealth to politics to race and how Jesus addresses them. But before we can talk about these topics we need to come to an understanding of what it means for Jesus to have authority in the lives of those who call him Lord. Then and only then can we talk through each topic humbly knowing that Jesus has the final say. Today, we will be looking at how Jesus communicates his own authority and how others responded to it.

# READ & DISCUSS

## READ

John 5:15-18

## DISCUSS

The Jews are clearly upset at Jesus because not only is he breaking their law of the Sabbath, but making himself to be equal with God. They are unwilling to let Jesus change their ideas about the purpose of Sabbath. Why do you think people have such a hard time with authority? How do we become people who listen to and ask questions of Jesus rather than jumping to conclusions or getting mad?

# READ & DISCUSS

## READ

John 5:19-30

## DISCUSS

In these verses Jesus gives multiple areas over which he has authority.

What are these areas and how do they differ from what you might expect?

# REFLECT & APPLY

## DISCUSS

Jesus names three primary areas over which he has authority. He raises the dead (v. 21), he judges the world (v. 22), and he has life in himself which leads to new creation (v. 26). THIS IS GOOD NEWS! Jesus calls us to obedience as he is the one who judges, but for the one who calls him Lord, they will receive power to live it out and mercy and grace when they fail. Where is Jesus calling you to listen to his authority over your own, knowing even when you mess up there is grace?

# PRAYER

Take time to praise Jesus as your Lord. He has the final say which has been given to him by our Father. He calls us to listen to his authority, but also gives us the power to live it out. Then take time to submit areas in your own life where listening to his authority is difficult for you.

## DISCIPLESHIP CHECK-IN

- Have you read your Bible and prayed consistently the past week?
- Who is one lost person you're praying would come to faith?

# \*LEADER'S NOTE

In the coming weeks we will be covering very difficult topics ranging from race to gender. It is important that as we prepare for groups and the conversations we will be having that we are taking time to pray for our groups and walking in the Spirit in the midst of them. Don't ever feel like you have to have an answer to everyone's questions. When you feel like you need additional wisdom and guidance feel free to reach out to your section leader or Sarah or Pastor Donny or Pastor Quentin. Also encourage your groups to attend the Beyond The Sermon series conversations that will be happening over Zoom with Pastor Adam on Sunday evenings.





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