



WINTER CHURCHWIDE STUDY

KINGDOM AUTHORITY

Lester Zimmerman

FEBRUARY 8, 2026

WORSHIP

Begin your group with a time of worship. If someone in your group can lead worship, invite them to lead two or three songs. Alternatively, consider using one or more of these songs from our Sunday morning worship time:

- **Look At What The Lord Has Done** (*The Belonging Co.*)
- **Reign Above It All** (*Bethel Music*)
- **Worthy** (*Elevation Music*)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Matthew 28:18-19
- Mark 1:21-27
- Mark 6:6-13
- Luke 10:17, 19

OPENING PRAYER

Begin your time together by inviting God's presence and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and application of His Word.

Ice Breaker (5-10 min)

Share a time when you witnessed or experienced someone operating in clear authority (a police officer, teacher, parent, etc.). What made their authority evident?

SERMON RECAP (5 minutes)

This week, Pastor Lester explored the authority of Jesus Christ and how He delegates that authority to His followers. Jesus demonstrated His divine authority through His teaching, power over demons and disease, and ability to forgive sins. As believers, we have been given authority in Jesus' name to advance God's kingdom and stand against the enemy.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-40 min)

Understanding Jesus' Authority

1. Read Matthew 28:18-19. What does it mean practically that Jesus has "all authority in heaven and on earth"? How should this truth affect our daily lives?
2. Read Mark 1:21-22. What was different about Jesus' teaching compared to the religious teachers? Have you ever heard teaching or preaching that had "the ring of heaven's authority"? What made it different?
3. Why do you think people struggle to fully submit to Jesus' authority as Lord, even after accepting Him as Savior? What areas of life are most difficult to surrender?

Authority Over Darkness

4. Read Mark 1:23-27. What do we learn about demons from this passage? Why is it significant that they recognized Jesus immediately?
5. Pastor Lester mentioned that many Christians live powerless lives because they don't understand the authority given to them. Do you agree? Why do you think this happens?
6. The sermon stated: "When we are under authority, we have authority." What does this mean? How does staying under Jesus' authority enable us to exercise spiritual authority?

Exercising Our Authority

7. Read Luke 10:17-19. What authority has Jesus given to His followers? How have you seen this authority demonstrated in your life or the lives of others?
8. Pastor Lester said we should pray for God's Kingdom to come into our situations rather than just accepting everything as "normal life." What situations in your life need you to exercise spiritual authority in Jesus' name?
9. How do we balance using our spiritual authority while also accepting that "we don't always see our prayers answered in the way we would like"?

Authority to Forgive

10. Read Mark 2:6-11. Why was Jesus' claim to forgive sins considered blasphemy? What does His ability to forgive sins prove about His identity?
11. Read 1 John 1:9. How does understanding Jesus' authority to forgive affect how we deal with guilt and shame?

Personal Reflection

Take 3-5 minutes of silence for individual reflection:

- Is there an area of your life where you haven't fully submitted to Jesus' Lordship?
- Are you living in the authority Jesus has given you, or are you living a powerless Christian life?
- Is there unconfessed sin you need to bring before Jesus for forgiveness?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION (10 Mins)

Choose 1-2 applications to focus on this week:

Individual Applications

- Daily Declaration: Each morning this week, declare Jesus' authority over your day, your family, and your circumstances. Use Scripture like Matthew 28:18 or Luke 10:19.
- Authority Audit: Identify one area where you've been living powerless (fear, anxiety, addiction, relationship struggle). Begin praying specifically: "Father, let your Kingdom come in this situation. Your will be done."
- Forgiveness Practice: Set aside time daily to confess any sin and receive God's forgiveness. Don't carry guilt that Jesus has already paid for.
- Study Authority: Do a word study on "authority" in the Gospels this week. Note every time Jesus exercises or delegates authority.

Group Applications

- Prayer Partners: Pair up and commit to praying for each other daily, specifically asking God to help you walk in the authority He's given you.
- Spiritual Warfare Training: As a group, study and discuss spiritual warfare passages (Ephesians 6:10-18, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5, James 4:7) over the next few weeks.
- Testimony Sharing: Create space in future meetings to share testimonies of answered prayer and experiencing God's authority in your situations.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. Jesus possesses all authority in heaven and on earth - He is not merely a good teacher but God in the flesh with supreme power over all creation.
2. Jesus taught with heaven's authority - Unlike religious leaders who relied on tradition and credentials, Jesus spoke with the backing of Heaven itself.
3. Jesus has complete authority over darkness - Demons, disease, storms, and even death must obey His commands.
4. Jesus delegates Kingdom authority to His followers - We have been given authority in Jesus' name to cast out demons, heal the sick, and advance God's kingdom.
5. Jesus has authority to forgive sins - Only God can forgive sins, proving Jesus' divinity and offering us complete forgiveness through His sacrifice.

CLOSING PRAYER

Close by praying the Lord's Prayer together, emphasizing "Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."