

LESSON 4 - IDENTITY **I HAVE AUTHORITY & POWER**

To the Teacher: Many times we feel powerless against Satan when he attacks us. That is what he wants us to believe - that we have no power. But according to the Word of God, we are told that although we have an adversary that is seeking to kill, steal, and destroy – Jesus has given us authority over him. We are not powerless but powerful because of His Spirit dwelling in us. We do, however, need to learn what authority we have and how to draw upon that power.

Concept:

True Identity

Objectives/Goal:

- To understand the power and authority that God has given us.
- To discover the victory that can come in our life as we walk in that power and authority.
- To grasp the full meaning of God being able to work ALL THINGS together for our good.
- To realize that it honors God when we walk in His power and authority and through Him we can do far more than we ever imagined.

Plan Ahead:

- Spend time this week reviewing the description of the demonstration under Launch Out.
- Prepare to have a group of 5 individuals come forward to assist in the initial demonstration.
- Also have a large set of keys available to use in the demonstration.
- Make copies of the handout for the Breakout Session.

Launch Out:

Introduction:

Have five students come forward and have them line up across the front facing the rest of the group. Name them from right to left as you are facing the group: God – Adam - Satan – Jesus – Man. Then read the following narration:

Today I am going to talk to you about the authority we have as believers and how we got that authority. Other names the scriptures use for the authority given to us are “keys to the kingdom,” “dominion,” and “power over the enemy.”

Let me ask you this, “Who originally created and ruled over all of the world?”..... (Give the keys to the student named “God.”) “Then who did God create and put in charge?In other words, he gave Adam the keys to the kingdom. (Have him give the keys to “Adam.”) “Did Adam keep those keys or were he and Eve tricked by Satan into falling for his lies and giving up the keys?”..... (Have Adam give the keys to Satan.) “Now this is where you really need to listen up. God knew all of this was going to happen and He had a plan. He sent Jesus not only to die for our sins but to defeat Satan. He took

dominion back and gave it to us, His followers, before He went back to heaven. (Satan gives keys to Jesus and Jesus gives the keys to Man.) Now it is our job to walk in that power and authority. So if the enemy is causing us trouble, it is our responsibility to use those keys and bind him up in the name of Jesus. Through the authority of Jesus we have power over the enemy. Let's be sure to use it! (Have the students return to their seats.)

Now let's look at it from another perspective. Your little brother grabs your parents' car keys off the kitchen table and gives them to you. Does he have the right to give you those keys? Absolutely not. The keys do not belong to him and if you were to use those keys and take your parents' car for a drive you would both be in big trouble. But let's say your dad comes to you and says, "I am going to give you my car keys and if you want to use them, you can take the car for a drive." What would you say then? Of course you would say that he is your dad and he has the right to give you permission to drive the car. The same is true when it comes to the authority God has given us through Jesus Christ. He owns it and has the right to give it to us. Now we just need to know what that authority is and how to use it.

Looking Forward:

Teacher introduces whole group discussion and elicits student responses:

What is the difference between authority and power? How does this illustration relate to our main scripture?



A CLOSER LOOK AT "POWER" VS. "AUTHORITY"

An example from football will help make this clear.

You have a linebacker on the field, well over 6 feet tall, weighing 300+ pounds. He's muscular. He's strong—he's powerful.

Standing nose-to-nose with him is a man in a black and white striped shirt. He's 5'8 and weighs 150. He has a little yellow handkerchief in his back pocket. When he pulls it out and throws it on the ground, the linebacker—and all the other 300-pounders—stop in their tracks. What's more, if things don't go well, the 150-lb. referee can send the 300-lb. linebacker to the showers. The linebacker has POWER. But the ref has AUTHORITY.

The centurion (Matthew 8:5-13) understood the weight of authority when he said to the Lord Jesus, "I also am a man under authority. I say to one, 'Go,' and he goes. And to another 'Come,' and he comes." That's authority. Behind the centurion stood the authority of Caesar and the Roman Empire. Behind the believer to whom God has given authority stands the Throne of God, power of the Spirit, and the angels.

Teacher introduces main scripture:

Luke 10:19 (NKJV) Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.

- What does it mean to “trample on serpents and scorpions”? Serpents and scorpions represent evil so what the scripture is saying is that we can overcome evil.
- What is the “power of the enemy”? Satan has limited power on this earth and uses it to tear us away from God and his plans for us. He is the master of using circumstances to discourage or persuade us; but, in God’s authority, we have power over him.
- “... nothing shall by any means hurt you.” Really? We must take this within the context of scripture which says: “No weapon formed against us will prosper” (Isa 54:17) and that “All things work together for good to those who love the Lord and are called according to His purpose”? (Ro 8:28) In other words, no matter what pitch Satan throws at us – God has the bat! Bad things will come our way, but it is our choice to view them as adversity or as an opportunity for God to work on our behalf.

Break Out:

Teacher introduces small group activities:

Separate students into small groups and have each group look up one set of the following scriptures. Answer the question attached to your scripture and then share with the whole group.

1. What kind of power do we have and where do we get it from? (Eph 1:19 and Ro 8:11)
2. What authority is given to us and where did it come from? (Mt 28:18-20 and Mk 16:15-18)
3. What authority and power is given to us in these scriptures and what are we supposed to bind or loose? (Mt 18:18, Mt 12:7-29, Lk 13:12)
4. What does the authority and power of God working through us look like? (2Tim 1:7, Php 4:13, and II Thes 1:11-12)
5. How did the Lord turn that which was intended for evil into good? (Heb 11:29, Gen 37:23-28)

Bring students back together and discover what it looks like when we are using the authority God has given us and operating in the power of His Spirit. Also discuss his ability to turn that which was meant for evil into good. How does all of this impact who we are – our identity?

Take Away:

I have authority that has been given to me by God through Jesus Christ to defeat the schemes of the enemy. God is not going to do for me what He has already given me the power and authority to do myself. In His power I can do far more than I ever imagined. It is my job to walk in His authority and power and as I do this, it brings God honor and glory.

Going Forward:

(Activation) If you were God and you sacrificed your only Son on the cross so that others could have all the benefits He paid for with his blood, how would you feel if people were not using that power? This week practice thinking of yourself as a person with God's authority and power. How does it change the way you think and act?

Teacher's Summary:

Today we have not only discovered that we are people who walk with great authority given to us by God but that we have the responsibility to use that authority to bind up the work of the enemy and to use the power of the Spirit to become a reflection of Christ to the world.

Teacher ends with prayer: "Let us end this lesson with a prayer."

Father – thank you for allowing your only Son to die on the cross not only for my sins but also to place in my hands authority and power over the enemy. Help me to understand the power of the Holy Spirit that lies inside of me and the authority you have given me to overcome the works of the enemy. Help me to walk in that power and authority each and every day. In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

BREAKOUT QUESTIONS:

1. What kind of power do we have and where do we get it from? (Eph 1:19 and Ro 8:11)
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