

DISCUSSION GUIDE

The Authority of Jesus (Mark #5)

Week of April 5, 2020

While this Discussion Guide is intended for use in a Riverwood Growth Group, it can be used personally as well. To get the most from these questions, we suggest you take 10-15 minutes to read, think, and pray through this Guide before participating in your Growth Group. The point of this guide is to not just "get through the questions" (there's no quiz at the end!) but to pursue Jesus and grow spiritually.

ICEBREAKER (Optional)

If you HAD to give up one of your senses (i.e., hearing, seeing, feeling, smelling, tasting), which would it be and why?

DISCUSSION

1. All of us have experienced authority, whether being *in* authority or *under* authority. Which experiences have been positive and which have been negative?

Read Mark 1:21-34

2. In his message on Sunday, Erin emphasized *the authority of Jesus*. How does Jesus use His authority, and whom does Jesus use it to help?

3. In this passage, Jesus does not *claim* to have authority — He proves it. What were the people saying about His teaching (v. 22)?

4. What authority does He show with Peter's mother-in-law (vv. 29-31)?



5. Describe the kind of authority Jesus demonstrates in vv. 32-34. What does this tell us about the extent and nature of Jesus's power?

6. **Read through vv. 21-34 again.**

- a. What do all three kinds of people Jesus healed have in common?

- b. In what ways did His care for women, lepers, and a demon-possessed man demonstrate His kingdom come?

MAKING IT PERSONAL

Mark's point with this presentation of Jesus's authority is that He has the right to extend the kingdom to whomever He chooses, including people who are sick, marginalized, and hurting.

7. Take a moment and reflect on this week's passage. How can we take steps day-by-day to live in light of Jesus's authority?

MEMORY VERSE

"Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God! Let Your good Spirit lead me on level ground!" (Psalm 143:10)

PRAYER

As you closing in prayer, praise God for the redemption we have in Jesus Christ! Despite what is going on around the world, ask God for reassurance that we are cared for under His sovereign authority. Lift up our church family, our community, and our world to God in prayer as we continue to see the effects of COVID-19.

