

Kingdom Authority

Connect Group Guide - 5.17.26

Opening Prayer

Ice Breaker

Share a time when you witnessed someone in authority (parent, teacher, boss, etc.) who used their authority well versus someone who abused it. What made the difference?

Key Scripture

- **Luke 9:23** - Taking up your cross daily
- **James 4:7** - Submit to God, resist the devil
- **Acts 19:13-16** - The seven sons of Sceva
- **Ephesians 6:10-18** - The armor of God
- **Galatians 5:1** - Freedom in Christ

Message Recap

This message challenges us to move beyond surface-level faith and into true kingdom authority through complete surrender to Jesus. Spiritual authority is not found in simply knowing church language or adding Jesus to our lives—it comes through daily surrender and submission to His lordship. Through the story of the seven sons of Sceva, we are reminded that authority without relationship leaves us spiritually vulnerable and ineffective. The message highlights a clear biblical process: submit to God, resist the devil, and he will flee. True freedom and power are found not in control, but in surrender, because a divided life will always leave us exhausted, while a surrendered life walks in the authority Christ provides.

Main Points

1. Surrender is the Foundation of Authority

- Before there can be resurrection power, there must be death to self. Christianity isn't about adding Jesus to your life—it's about complete surrender to the King.

2. Submission to God Produces Resistance Against the Enemy

- The order matters: Submit → Resist → Devil Flees. We cannot skip the first step.

3. Authority Comes from Union with Christ

- Our authority is delegated authority. We don't fight FOR victory; we fight FROM victory.

4. Spiritual Authority Requires Spiritual Discipline

- Authority is not maintained casually. Prayer, fasting, and communion with God are essential.

5. Full Surrender Leads to Real Freedom

- The most miserable believer is the divided believer—one foot in the world, one foot in church.

Discussion Questions

Understanding Surrender

1. Pastor Mike said, "The problem with living sacrifices is they keep trying to crawl off the altar." When do you find yourself most tempted to "crawl off the altar"? What triggers that response?
2. What's the difference between believing in Jesus and being fully surrendered to Jesus? Where do you see yourself on that spectrum?
3. Why do you think surrender is so difficult for most people? What specific areas of your life are hardest to surrender?

The Order of Spiritual Authority

4. Discuss the story of the seven sons of Sceva (Acts 19:13-16). What does this teach us about trying to use spiritual authority without genuine relationship with Christ?
5. The message outlined three steps: Submit, Resist, Flee. Why can't we skip straight to resisting the enemy? What happens when we try?

6. Pastor Mike said, "The enemy studies you." What does the enemy look for? What areas of inconsistency or compromise might make us vulnerable?

Walking in Authority

7. Read Ephesians 6:10-18 together. Which piece of the armor of God do you feel strongest in? Which piece needs the most attention in your life right now?
8. The illustration showed that the armor doesn't cover our backs—we need other believers to protect us there. How well are you doing at "standing back to back" with other believers instead of fighting each other?
9. What does it mean practically that "we don't fight FOR victory, we fight FROM victory"? How does this change our perspective on spiritual battles?

Freedom Through Surrender

10. Pastor Mike said, "The most miserable believer is the divided believer." Have you experienced this? What does that division feel like?
11. How does the illustration of the wild horse versus the broken horse help you understand God's purpose in surrender? What "wild power" in your life needs to be directed by God?
12. What's the difference between happiness and joy? How have you seen surrendered believers maintain joy even in difficult circumstances?

Key Takeaways

- **Authority flows from alignment.** We must surrender before we can take authority.
- **The enemy isn't intimidated by church attendance or religious language**—only by fully surrendered believers.
- **Spiritual authority is delegated authority.** It comes from Jesus, not from ourselves.
- **God isn't trying to destroy your strength; He's trying to direct it.**
- **A surrendered grandmother full of prayer can shake the foundations of hell.** Power isn't about position—it's about surrender.

Practical Applications

Daily Practices

- **Morning Altar:** Each morning before getting out of bed, pray: "God, I sacrifice myself to you today. Help me live for you." Return to this prayer throughout the day when you feel yourself "crawling off the altar."
- **Armor of God Checklist:** Each morning, intentionally "put on" each piece of armor through prayer, asking God to strengthen each area.
- **Surrender Inventory:** Make a list of areas in your life (mind, mouth, money, relationships, future, reputation). Ask God to show you which areas you're still holding back from Him.

Weekly Commitments

- **Find Your Back:** Identify one believer who will commit to "standing back to back" with you in prayer and accountability.
- **Spiritual Discipline Audit:** Evaluate your consistency in prayer, Bible reading, fasting, and worship. Choose one area to strengthen this week.
- **Study Your Enemy:** Research what the Bible says about spiritual warfare. Know your enemy's tactics so you can better resist.

Group Challenge

- **Pray for Gen Z and Alpha:** The pastor mentioned these generations are returning to church. Pray for young people in your church and community. Consider how your group can better minister to them.

Prayer Requests & Closing

Leader Notes

- Be sensitive to different perspectives on Israel; focus on biblical teaching rather than politics
- Encourage participation from everyone, but don't force anyone to share
- If someone wants to give their life to Christ during discussion, be prepared to pray with them
- Keep the discussion focused on personal application, not just theological debate
- Consider inviting someone knowledgeable about Israel or Jewish culture to a future meeting