

Community Groups are used extensively as the primary vehicle for discipleship at The Gathering and run on a quarter system. There is one in the fall, one in the winter and one in the spring. During the summer weeks we don't meet in Community Groups but we still offer the Growth Guides as a tool to help you grow personally. The Growth Guides are designed to help you dig deeper into the weekly sermon on your own or with your family and are available each week along with the note sheets at church as well as online.

COMMUNITY GROUPS ARE BETTER WHEN MEMBERS COME PREPARED. THIS GUIDE HAS BEEN PROVIDED AS A TOOL FOR THAT.

Consider...

Use the summary and discussion below to review and apply this week's message:

Message Summary

It's impossible to read this section of Luke and not feel the action in it. We find exorcisms, rebuking, healing, tons of bandwagon Jesus followers – even an early morning attempted mission hijacking! I guess it's fair to say that people generally don't quite know how to react to true spiritual authority, and so we tend to just react to it, often with tons of action and not a lot of anything else. But Jesus provides us with a really good opportunity to see the difference between POWER and AUTHORITY: one is loud, but one silences; one is taken, but one is received. There are others, but you get the idea, and once we understand the difference between the two (and how easy it can be to confuse them), we begin to see three truths about authority:

1. **Authority ALWAYS attracts:** We see this with Jesus. His authority attracted demons and people (I know, strange combo!), but I think it's important to see that people aren't bad because they're attracted to something greater than themselves. We tend to think it's bad if people "jump on the bandwagon" out of curiosity, but Jesus was okay with it. He knew his authority would be attractive.
2. **Authority MAY corrupt:** Why do you think people were able to so easily see that Jesus' authority was different? Because they had seen in their leaders how it shouldn't be used! Like we learned, authority and power are very closely related and yet extremely different in how they are used, and if we get those mixed up, we'll fall for the VERY tempting "power grab." I'm so glad Jesus didn't!
3. **Authority SHOULD serve:** What I love time and time again about Jesus is that he never used his authority to make people serve him. Instead, he came TO serve, and we see that time and again in this passage, from delivering a man from a demon without hurting him to healing Simon's mother-in-law after a tough morning of ministry and then serving all the sick after a very long day. Jesus used his authority to serve, and we should, too.

Discuss

Use the following questions to review and apply the points learned in the message.

- What takeaway – if any – did you have from the message this week?
- Paul talked a lot about POWER vs. AUTHORITY. Does the difference make sense to you? Have you encountered people in both areas? How did you respond differently to them (if you did)?
- Authority ALWAYS attracts. How has Jesus' authority grabbed your attention lately?
- In Luke 4:33-35, Jesus delivered a man from demon possession. Look back at what Jesus declared that he was here to do in Luke 4:18-19 and highlight which of those Jesus fulfilled here. How is his authority bringing freedom to you?
- Authority MAY corrupt, and it SHOULD serve. Take note of the first sentence in Luke 4:42. What did Jesus do (even though he was obviously VERY busy)? How can getting alone in the presence of God help us stay true to the mission we have to use God's authority to serve others with the good news of the gospel?
- According to Matthew 28:18, who has authority? How much does he have? What does Luke 10:19 say that he has chosen to do with that authority? How does the authority of Jesus given to us help us in fulfilling the role that we've been called to in 2 Corinthians 5:20?