

Connection

Have you recently had any fun or heart-pounding moments with someone in an authority role?

Cheer and Challenge

- How did it go living out your "I will..." statement from last week? Share your experience.
- Tell about any experiences you had this week following through on the B.L.E.S.S. challenge.

Content

"Authority Motivates Action"

First thoughts, what does this statement mean to you?

1. Which areas in your life do you have authority in?
2. Do you see it as a derived authority (temporarily granted) or intrinsic (inherited)?
3. Reading **Romans 13:1**- What stands out to you?

Jesus is Authority

4. "Authority" (in Greek 'exousia') refers to the rightful and legitimate exercise of power. All authority can be characterized as either derived or intrinsic. God is the Creator of the universe, only the triune God has purely intrinsic authority and all other authority is derived from God.

With this in mind, what are your thoughts on your authority from God? How have you been a good or poor steward of it?

5. Reading **Colossians 1:15-20**, how would you describe God & Jesus' authority? How does their authority apply to you?

How do people respond when Jesus uses His authority?

5. Read Mathew 8:5-13 (The Faith of the Centurion) & Mark 6:1-6 (A Prophet Without Honor). What do these passages say to you?

6. How do you respond to Jesus' authority?

7. Jesus used His authority to restore our relationship with God. How does Jesus' authority influence our relationship with God?

How does the authority of Jesus influence how you relate to God?

8. Reading Hebrews 4:14-16, how does Jesus's authority influence our relationship with God? How are we called to live our lives differently because of His authority?

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Hebrews 4:14-16 - NIV

Commitment

This week, spend each day reading Hebrews 4:14-16 and reflecting on Jesus' authority. How will His "authority motivate action"?

Begin with prayer. Listen with care. Eat / Engage with another. Serve. Share your story.

If you feel led this week, Share Your Story with who you are keeping in B.L.E.S.S. Who in your life are you practicing bless with? Is there any way your group can be of help?