

Authority & Power – Week 1 – What Is Authority?

Connect and review	
<p>Make sure everyone shares their name and a brief introduction about themselves.</p>	<p>Refer to any previous courses offered e.g., Alpha. Indicate the length and format of the sessions and give an indication of what will be covered in the following weeks. Explain the topic for today and distribute notes.</p>
Inspire and engage	
<p>There is no set way to present material, just go the way that suits you. Try to use most of the Bible verses.</p>	<p>Authority = the power or right to give orders and enforce obedience, e.g., Matthew 9:6; 21:23; 2 Corinthians 10:8, or the power of one whose will, and commands must be obeyed by others, e.g., Matthew 28:18; John 17:2; Jude 25. God has supreme [= <i>highest in authority or rank</i>] authority in the universe He created: e.g., Psalm 22:28; 2 Chronicles 20:6 and He rules over people, e.g., Ecclesiastes 9:1; Daniel 4:17. He chooses to delegate [= <i>give a task or responsibility to another, or to authorise someone to do something on your behalf</i>] some of His authority to others, e.g., angels, people, government, churches, but He always retains the right to withdraw that authority at any time He chooses. He also sets the limits within which that authority can be used, e.g., Job 1:6-12; 2:3-6.</p>
Explore and Apply	
<p>Attempt one exercise at a time and only use them all if time allows. Try to encourage Q & A and discussion but avoid personal/private answers.</p>	<p>Explore</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What examples can you find in the Gospels of Jesus demonstrating authority over nature? 2. How did Jesus delegate His authority to His disciples? 3. How, and by whom, was Jesus' authority questioned? <p>Apply</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How willing and ready are you to accept the authority of those God has placed over you, e.g., in the workplace, or government? 2. How much do you recognise and accept God's authority over all of your life?
Reflect and review	
<p>This helps to show what has been learned and what may need to be reinforced.</p>	<p><i>Personal reflection:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does your attitude towards authority need to change and, if so, how willing are you to bring this to pass? <p><i>Suggested activity</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consider prayerfully how much you value God's authority in this world and in your own life.