



Smith Rock
COMMUNITY CHURCH

Community Group study guide

LUKE

J E S U S F O R E V E R Y O N E

**For the week of
9th of February 2020**



Unless you have been living in a cave in a remote part of the world, you will know that we have entered an election year and the candidates for various offices are sharing their ideas and plans for how they want to effect a community or the country and running around shaking hands and kissing babies. Why do they need to get elected? Because the beauty of a democracy is you can only obtain a position of authority by the agreement of the voters, only want to give that authority to those who are going to use it we think are going to benefit us, because when we give people authority we give them access to power.

Power and authority are not the same thing. Some people have power, but fortunately they lack the authority to use it, and other people have authority, but they have no power to implement what they want do.

This week we look at Jesus who has both, yet He was not elected, He has it divinely because He is king, He is Lord, He is God. How do people react to someone who not only claims to have power and authority but demonstrates it too?



31 And he went down to Capernaum, a city of Galilee. And he was teaching them on the Sabbath, 32 and they were astonished at his teaching, for his word possessed authority. 33 And in the synagogue there was a man who had the spirit of an unclean demon, and he cried out with a loud voice, 34 “Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God.” 35 But Jesus rebuked him, saying, “Be silent and come out of him!” And when the demon had thrown him down in their midst, he came out of him, having done him no harm. 36 And they were all amazed and said to one another, “What is this word? For with authority and power he commands the unclean spirits, and they come out!” 37 And reports about him went out into every place in the surrounding region.

38 And he arose and left the synagogue and entered Simon’s house. Now Simon’s mother-in-law was ill with a high fever, and they appealed to him on her behalf. 39 And he stood over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her, and immediately she rose and began to serve them.

40 Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who

were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them. 41 And demons also came out of many, crying, "You are the Son of God!" But he rebuked them and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ.

42 And when it was day, he departed and went into a desolate place. And the people sought him and came to him, and would have kept him from leaving them, 43 but he said to them, "I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose." 44 And he was preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Luke 4:31–44 (ESV)

ISRAEL AT THE TIME OF JESUS

1ST CENTURY AD



Commentary

Last week we saw how Jesus came to the synagogue in Nazareth to announce the “Good News” as Jesus read from Isaiah 61:1- 2 and told His hearers “today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” Jesus’ fellow townspeople didn’t want to hear it, and tried to kill Him, but Jesus escaped unscathed and went to Capernaum. In Capernaum it seems that Jesus is going to get a more favourable response to His teaching, in fact the people are astonished at His teaching because “His word possessed authority.” Not only do we see Jesus’ word possess authority, but it also has another quality because when a demon starts to disrupt things in the synagogue (we are not told why a demon possessed man is in the synagogue in the first place) identifying Jesus as the “Holy one of God,” Jesus commands the demon to be silent and exorcises it out of the man. This produces a further question in the onlookers, because not only does His word have authority but it also has power. Remember back to when Jesus was tempted by the devil and the devil had promised to give Jesus power and authority if He worshiped him? Jesus resisted the temptation and now we see the power and authority Jesus has already, and He is using against the forces of the devil. No wonder the devil tried to tempt Jesus to give that up! From Luke’s perspective demon possession and sickness of every kind are tools of the devil because they prevent people from experiencing the fullness of life God intended for us all. The demon asked if Jesus had “come to destroy us,” and the answer is yes! The Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ rolls back the frontiers of the hold of the devil on people’s lives.



Synagogue in Capernaum

An interesting juxtaposition here; the demon recognises Jesus for who He is, and while the people recognise that His words have authority and power, and they are amazed, they don't come to the same conclusion that Jesus is the "Holy one of God." Just as "reports" had gone around about Jesus before when He had started His ministry so the reports travel around the region concerning His latest teaching and exploits.

The scene shifts from the synagogue to Simon's house, although Luke has not yet introduced us to Simon (that will come next week), and Simon's mother in law is sick. Jesus, in the same way He dealt with the demon "rebuked" the sickness and it left her. Peter's mother in law immediately begins serving, which should be seen and how immediately and effectively she was cured, and returned to her place in the household, and also rather than just

wondering and being amazed by Jesus she serves Him out of gratitude. As the sun set and the Sabbath came to an end, a steady stream of those in need of His healing came to Him. Jesus had no compunction about healing on the Sabbath, but the people no doubt fearful of the authorities were not going to break the law, even to get His healing.

Before Jesus went out to the wilderness to be tempted, but here Jesus goes out it seems to pray and reconnect with His Father away from the busyness of ministry, and when the people find Him and want to prevent Him from leaving, Jesus tells them He must “preach the Good News of the kingdom of God to other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.”

Jesus will not allow His ministry to be confined to one region, because His purpose is to bring the Good News to the world.”

Group Study

Open the group with prayer and discuss how you have used your application from last week’s study in your life, and what you have learned from it.

Have you ever been surprised by someone, because it turned out there was a lot more to them than you thought at first?

How did that make you feel?

What gives words authority?

How does someone gain authority?

What gives words power?

How does someone gain power?

How do we recognise someone who has authority and power?

Is there a difference between authority and power?

Can you have one without the other?

Read the following:

9 He entered his headquarters again and said to Jesus, "Where are you from?" But Jesus gave him no answer. 10 So Pilate said to him, "You will not speak to me? Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?" 11 Jesus answered him, "You would have no authority over me at all unless it had been given you from above. Therefore he who delivered me over to you has the greater sin."

John 19:9–11 (ESV)

24 Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

1 Corinthians 15:24–26 (ESV)

Compare the difference in authority and power of the world to God's.

Read Ephesians 1:15-23

What authority and power does Jesus lack?

When Jesus confronts the demon He “rebukes” it. Luke uses the same word later when Jesus heals Simon’s mother in law, He “rebukes” her fever. In both cases He leaves the victims of sin better off than when He found them.

Do you think we leave victims of sin better off than when we find them, or do we sometimes fight the “sin” so hard we destroy the person in the process?

Read Matthew 27:18-20.

What kind of authority and power do we wield?

Personal study time

40 Now when the sun was setting, all those who had any who were sick with various diseases brought them to him, and he laid his hands on every one of them and healed them.

Luke 4:40 (ESV)

The people waited until the Sabbath was over before venturing out to find Jesus, even though their need was great, probably they feared being accused of breaking the law by the Pharisees. Has there been a time when you have felt the law keeping you back from Jesus?

Reflect on this passage below with the following questions?

Have you ever been reluctant to come to Jesus?

What held you back?

How did Jesus receive you when you did finally go to Him?

If you are still hanging back, why not go to Him right now, and ask Him to touch your life with His authority and power.

A large blue rectangular area with horizontal dashed lines, intended for writing answers to the reflection questions. It contains 20 horizontal dashed lines.

35 And rising very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he departed and went out to a desolate place, and there he prayed. 36 And Simon and those who were with him searched for him, 37 and they found him and said to him, "Everyone is looking for you." 38 And he said to them, "Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, for that is why I came out." 39 And he went throughout all Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and casting out demons.

Mark 1:35–39 (ESV)

Reflect on the following questions.

Why did Jesus want to escape the crowd?

Where did He go?

Why didn't He stay in Capernaum?

Where do you go to get direction for your life?

When was the last time you got alone with God?

Where is God leading you to share the Good News of the kingdom of heaven?

When and where will you get away this week to hear God's direction for you?

NAME OF THE BOOK

Reflection

REAP Method of studying Scripture

READ

Find the passages for today's reading in the Bible Reading Plan. Read the passages with an open heart, asking the Holy Spirit to give you words of encouragement, direction, and correction (2 Timothy 3:16). Underline the verses that seem important and that God is using to speak to you.

EXAMINE

Spend some time reflecting and writing about what you've read. Write down one or two of the key verses that stuck out to you. Ask yourself these questions and write down your thoughts:

- * What is going on in the passage?
- * Who is writing and whom is he writing to?
- * When was the author writing?
- * What are the circumstances that the author is addressing?
- * Does the writer mention anything that might indicate his purpose or intent?
- * How do you think the author wants his audience to respond?

APPLY

After examining the passage, apply the text to your own life. Ask yourself these questions:

- * What is God's word for me from this passage?
- * How will I live differently and be different today because of what I just read?