



JESUS ON THE MOVE

TALK IT OVER

Jesus and Authority

Jesus on the Move - Week 3

Pastor Andy Wood

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If you would like to watch the weekend message, visit www.saddleback.com/watch.

Open your group in prayer and remember that this is only a guide. Feel free to discuss each of the questions provided or simply dive deeper into just one. Before you close with prayer, take a few minutes to look over the Three Essential Questions at the end of the document.

Scriptures

Mark 1:21-28 (NIV), Mark 1:29-34 (NKJV), Mark 2:1-11 (NKJV), John 20:31 (NKJV), James 4:6 (NKJV), Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV), Ephesians 3:16-19, Lamentations 3:22-23 (ESV), Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV), Isaiah 26:3 (NKJV), Revelation 4:1-11 (ESV), Matthew 11:28-30 (NIV)

Questions

1. Jesus is on the move, and he is acting with authority! Read Mark 1:21-28 aloud. How does Jesus' teaching compare with that of the scribes? How does the man possessed by an impure spirit address Jesus? What does Jesus command the unclean spirit to do? How does the passage demonstrate Jesus' authority over both the seen and unseen realms?
2. Scripture demonstrates the works God does—such as healing the sick and raising the dead, and Jesus did these works when he came in human flesh! All the works Jesus did—he wants to do in your life as well! The Apostle John writes in John 20:31 (NKJV): "*These are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.*" Read Mark 2:1-11 aloud. How did Jesus demonstrate his authority to give you freedom, bring you healing, and offer you forgiveness? Per John 20:31, what role does believing that Jesus is "*the Christ, the Son of God*" play in the work of God in your life?
3. Who is in charge of your life? Jesus is not here to be on call—He is here to be in charge! The problem we face is that we carry weight that God does not intend for us to carry—such as anxiety, worry, and fear. Jesus gives us freedom in two ways: moments of salvation or deliverance, and a lifelong process of discipleship. The Good News is—when Jesus is in charge,

everything gets better because He is God who knows what is best—and has our future in His hands! What area of your life do you need to place under Christ's authority?

4. God gives authority to individuals, families, churches, and governments. But there are moments when we all stand at odds with God! James 4:6 (NKJV) says, *"But He gives more grace. Therefore He says: 'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.'"* When we submit to the Lord's authority, we come under His Word, ways, and wisdom—and God covers us like an umbrella. How does James 4:6 contrast God's response to pride versus surrender? Share examples of how God *"resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble."*
5. God spoke creation into existence, and he still moves in people today! He's the ultimate authority over sin, sickness, and spiritual realms! In Revelation 4:8 (ESV), all of heaven gives him glory—never ceasing to say, *"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"* As Jesus was departing, he said in Matthew 28:18-20 (NIV), *"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* This is Good News! As we surrender, Jesus blesses us with greater peace, joy, and healing—all the fullness of life! Romans 10:9 (NKJV) says, *"If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved."* Discuss the Good News of the ultimate authority, Jesus Christ, as Savior and Lord.
6. Paul prays in Ephesians 3:18-19 (NIV) that we might *"grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ"* in order that we may be filled with *"all the fullness of God."* Greater trust leads to greater surrender! Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV) says, *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."* Jesus honors surrender! Discuss what it means to *"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding."* How does *"trust in the Lord"* lead to greater submission? Discuss the promise that when you submit to the Lord *"in all your ways," "he will make your paths straight"* and fill you with *"all the fullness of God!"*
7. Greater peace comes from greater trust! Isaiah 26:3 (NKJV) says, *"You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You."* Jesus says in Matthew 11:28 (NIV), *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."* Lamentations 3:22-23 (ESV) says, *"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning."* Trust comes out of an understanding that God is both good and great! He is powerful and mighty, but he is personal, and he cares! When we understand this, we come to a place where we say, *"God, my life is yours!"* Do any areas of your life come to mind that you have not yet placed under Jesus' authority? Verbalize areas of your life out loud that you want to surrender to the Lord. What step will you take this week to submit a specific area to God? Find a safe person who can partner with you in this powerful act of surrender and accountability.

Are you interested in the Bible and in helping small groups benefit from the weekend message? Well, you are in luck! Saddleback members like you create these discussion guides each week. If you are interested in joining the team, please email JasonW@saddleback.com.

Three Essential Questions

The following questions are intended to be open-ended and encourage members to consider how they and what they, or the group, can do as a result of hearing the message.

1. **What did you hear?** *What point in this message was most impactful for you?*
2. **What do you think?** *How did this message challenge, change, or affirm your thinking?*
3. **What will you do?** *How will you or your group put into practice what you've learned today?*

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