

Group Leader Guide “Anointed Authority” - Storyline March 7, 2021

Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation; encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

// Message Summary

We receive so many messages, both from others and ourselves, that cause us to question the story that God is writing in our lives. Lead Pastor Jim Burgen shows us that all of have been anointed and chosen by God for His mission for us, and with that anointing comes the authority to carry out that mission.

// Biblical Context

Capernaum. A populous village on the Sea of Galilee, known for fishing. Jesus made Capernaum his home during His ministry: “Leaving Nazareth He went and lived in Capernaum.” (Matthew 4:13) Capernaum was the hometown of Matthew, Simon Peter, Andrew, James, and John. Later in Jesus’ ministry he cursed Capernaum along with other surrounding towns because of their lack of faith.

Centurion. A centurion was a Roman officer in charge of a hundred men. These roman battalions would be placed in occupied territory to enforce the laws, keep the peace, and uphold Rome’s authority in the distant reaches of the empire. Centurions along with Roman soldiers would all be Gentiles and foreign transplants to Israel.

“Lord, I do not deserve to have you come under my roof.”

Notice that the Centurion addresses Jesus as “Lord.” Technically any Jew would be under the authority of a Roman officer, but the centurion recognizes Jesus’ spiritual authority as superior to his military authority. He also is sensitive to Jewish cleanliness laws—in those times, any Jew who entered the house of a Gentile would become unclean.

Distant Healing. In ancient Israel, healing was more common phenomenon—but it was typically understood that a healer would have to touch the person who would be healed, thus we see people bringing their sick to Jesus, or bringing Jesus to their sick. The centurion had faith that Jesus had power far beyond that of other healers—he even leaves Jesus at his word and without any proof in the moment that his servant would be healed.



A Roman Centurion

// Biblical Context

This week, it's important that you have done some of the work processing your Anointed Authority before leading the group. Spend some time in reflection: What are the circumstances that make you begin to doubt your connection to God, your calling from God, and your commission from God? Spend some time meditating on these Scriptures:

John 15:7: If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

Romans 11:29: For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.

1 Thessalonians 5:24: He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

Colossians 3:17: And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

// References

Currid, John D., and David W. Chapman. *ESV Archaeology Study Bible: English Standard Version*. Crossway Books, 2017.

Keener, Craig S Ph.d. (2014). *IVP Bible Background Commentary: New Testament*. InterVarsity Press.

Group Discussion Questions “Anointed Authority” - Storyline March 7, 2021

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// Bible References

John 10:10; Matthew 8:5-13; John 14:10; Luke 4:18-19; John 5:30; John 15:7; Romans 11:29; 1 Thessalonians 5:24; Colossians 3:17

// Message Screenshots

- Anointed is the Biblical term for being chosen by God and set apart and commissioned by Him for the holy purpose or mission He has in mind for you.
- Authority means that God also gives you all of the rights and responsibilities necessary to make sure that what God wants to happen, happens.
- Connection: your authority originates and flows from your connection to God.
- Calling: you have authority because God is the one who chose/anointed you and sent you to do it.
- Commission: God has given you the authority to act in a certain way to achieve what He wants to achieve.
- Get CONNECTED to the one who is connected to the power. CALL on the one who is called and anointed. Operate under the COMMISSION of the one who has the authority to make it happen.
- What gets you to question your connection to God? What gets you to question your calling/anointing? What gets you to question your commission?
- The Confusion of Your Circumstances. The Condemnation from your Past. The Discouragement and Disappointment from the closest people in your life.
- “You’re grieving the reality that some people aren’t the kind of people that you thought that they were.”
- That may be who I was THEN, but I am not that person NOW and you don’t get to say that anymore.
- Don’t define your life by anyone who doesn’t know, understand or care about your connection, calling or commission.
- You DO have a relentless conviction that what God has said and His decision to choose and anoint you for what He has called you to do IS STILL TRUE.
- You DO have an anointed authority on your life to go and do what needs to be done because God has commissioned you to go and take courageous action.

// Community Questions

1. Are you more of a person who falls in line with authority or someone who challenges authority? Share how this has shown up in your life to the rest of the group if you're comfortable.
2. Does anyone who typically challenges authority have a funny story about a time they challenged authority when they were younger?

// Discussion Questions

1. When you hear that you have Anointed Authority given to you from God, what's your initial reaction?
2. What are some of the situations in your life where you are confident that God has chosen you and given you the rights and responsibilities to get the task He set before you done well? What are some of the situations where it's harder to believe God has chosen and entrusted you?
3. As you read the story of Jesus and the centurion in Matthew 8:5-13, why do you think Jesus was amazed at the centurion's faith?
4. Read Luke 4:18-19 again. How do you think that Jesus' understanding of His calling helped Him persevere throughout His ministry? How could your calling help you continue to persevere when you've been "punched in the mouth"?
5. Which of these attacks typically makes you doubt your connection to God, your calling, and your commission by God?
 - The Confusion of your Circumstances
 - The Condemnation from your Past
 - The Discouragement and Disappointment from the people closest in your life.Explain to the group if you are comfortable.
6. Typically when someone misuses or gives up their given authority, that authority is taken away from them and given to someone else—yet God continues to give us additional opportunities. What do you think He is trying to teach us through that?

// Challenge Question

Jim said "Don't define your life by anyone who doesn't know, understand, or care about your connection, calling, or commission." Our groups exists to help us live out God's calling on our lives and to lift each other up when we are struggling. **What is one way that the group can do to encourage you in your connection, calling, and commission from God when you are doubting it?**