

### OPENING QUESTIONS

Can you think of a setting in your life where you have authority to do or be someone and you exercise that authority on a regular basis? Where is it? What is your authority?

### READ TOGETHER

**Ephesians 2:6-7.** Brainstorm for a minute on these two verses. What do you think it means that *God seated us with Christ in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ?*

### BIG IDEA

**Authority always trumps power in the spiritual world.**

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Read Romans 11:33-36. Why is it that God is the supreme ruler and authority over all?
- 2) Read Ephesians 1:18-23 and Daniel 7:13-14 together. To whom has God given all authority and rule?
- 3) Read Ephesians 1:18-23 again and then read Ephesians 2:6-7. Who benefits from Jesus the Son being given authority?
- 4) Read Matthew 28:18-20. To whom does Jesus pass on His authority? Find John 14 and read verses 12-14. What does Jesus tell His disciples (and thus us as His disciples) about the work we've been given?
- 5) Think about what we've studied so far. If these verses are true, what does it mean that we've been given authority to exercise in this world? What do the Scriptures tell us we have authority to actually do? Read and consider the following verses as you answer that question...
  - Ephesians 6:10-19
  - Matthew 18:18-20
  - 2 Corinthians 10:3-5
- 6) Go back to the brainstorming question we asked earlier. Now what do you think it means that *God seated us with Christ in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ?*
- 7) Can you think of a place in your life where you could begin to exercise your spiritual authority? Take time to share your responses as a group.

### CHALLENGE

This week commit to exercising your spiritual authority. What would it mean if we took time each morning to put on our spiritual authority in prayer as Ephesians 6:10-18 teaches us to do? What would it mean if we began to forbid or bind and permit or loose things that we see going on all around us that are either contrary or in line with God's will as Matthew 18:18-20 teaches us? What would it mean if we began to break down strongholds using God's weapons as 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 speaks of? Let's put this into practice this week..

### PRAYER

Take time to pray as a group about these things. Begin by sharing about what holds you back from engaging in these practices as a follower of Christ. And then pray for one another that God would fill you with His Spirit to empower you for this.



## NEXT STEPS

You can apply and take this teaching deeper into your life in two ways this week. First, you may want to learn from the prayer that Charles Stanley offers regarding putting on the armor of God each morning. You can find it at: <http://www.libertyfellowship.com/ARMOROFGOD.HTML>.

You also may want to dig more deeply into this topic of spiritual authority by reading Chuck Davis' book *The Bold Christian: Using Your God-Given Spiritual Authority as a Believer*. It's available at [www.amazon.ca](http://www.amazon.ca).