

LIFEGROUP STUDY
REAL GOOD QUESTIONS:
“WHY WOULD I ALLOW THE BIBLE TO BE AUTHORITATIVE IN MY LIFE?”
20210418

LEADER NOTES

OVERVIEW

Welcome back to our series, Real Good Questions. Over the weeks of this series, we’re exploring six common challenges to Christianity and how Christ followers can respond. This series is a great opportunity for you to understand Christianity’s position on these challenges, to become better equipped in your faith and to speak to the doubts and challenges you or those close to you may have. For today’s study, we’re asking the question, “Why would I allow the Bible to be authoritative in my life?” The Scriptures point to Jesus, the One who has authority to speak into my life. Today we will build the case that it only makes sense that I would look to the Bible as authoritative in order to know Jesus and to follow Him.

ICEBREAKER My First Boss

When I was a teen I got a job at a grocery store in London. This was my first experience in having a “boss”. I learned a lot in that job about being under the authority of someone else during my hours at work. What was your first experience of working for a “boss”? What did that experience teach you about authority?

STUDY

1. On Sunday, Pete spoke to the question, “Why would I allow the Bible to be authoritative in my life?” **What was a highlight for you from his response?**

The Authority of Jesus

To appreciate the authority of the Bible, we must see the Bible as the source of how we can know and follow Jesus, our authority in life. To explore this, let’s look at Mark’s account in chapter 1 of the identity and authority of Jesus.

READ: Mark 1:1-28

In Mark 1:1, we read the intent of Mark’s Gospel – “This is the Good News about Jesus ...” Therefore, as we read, we can ask, “What is this telling me about Jesus?” In verses 1-28 we read about Jesus’ identity as well as his authority. As a group, read through these verses, then take some time to go back through to notice what Mark tells us about the identity and authority of Jesus.

2. What does Mark tell us about Jesus' identity in verses 1 and 11?

LEADER NOTE: In Mark 1:1, Mark introduces Jesus as the "Messiah, the Son of God." The Hebrew word *Messiah* is often translated *Christ*. Both Messiah and Christ mean "anointed". In the OT, priests and prophets were anointed with oil to indicate the Lord's presence, blessing and authority for the tasks to which God called them. As time went on, Israelites increasingly looked forward to the coming of the Messiah, "the Anointed One", a descendant of David who would be Israel's king. The title, "Son of God" emphasizes Jesus' unique relationship with God the Father. This is seen especially in the Father's confirmation of Jesus at Jesus' baptism (vs. 9-11)

3. Where do you notice the authority of Jesus in Mark chapter 1?

LEADER NOTE: The authority of Jesus is seen in His identity as Messiah, Son of God, in the prophecy that was spoken about him from Isaiah (2-3), in John the Baptist's proclamation about him (7-8), in His baptism (9-11) and in His teaching and miracles.

4. What do you notice about the response the people had to Jesus' teaching? (see vs. 22 and 27)

LEADER NOTE: Before the people could be amazed at Jesus' miracles, they are "amazed" at his teachings. The Greek word translated as "amazed" is *ekplesso*, which means to be struck with amazement; almost as someone who is physically thrown back. In Jesus' day, Jewish Rabbis would bolster their interpretation of Scripture by citing the opinion of teachers who came before them. Jesus, however, does not rely on confirmation from other sources. He teaches as if he is the authority on the passage at hand – because he is. This new approach led to the hearers being amazed by Jesus.

5. How might you use Mark 1 to argue we should see the Bible as authoritative?

LEADER NOTE: The Scriptures authoritative because they point us to Jesus. Mark 1 is a powerful example of this. In this chapter, we learn the identity and authority of Jesus, crucial aspects that guide how we follow Him. We should have the same attitude toward Scripture that Jesus did. It is useful for teaching, correcting and training us how to live for Him (see 2 Tim. 3:16)

The Great Commission

The Great Commission is Jesus' "marching orders" for our life. It is the sending out of his original followers, and us, to live under his authority - to follow Jesus, love God and love people. Let's explore the Great Commission together.

READ: Matthew 28:18-20

“Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commandments I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” NLT

6. Jesus begins by saying, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.” **What do you think He means by this?**

LEADER NOTE: Jesus’ authority is power delegated from the Father. Jesus’ teaching and miracles are confirmation of this authority. For example, in Matthew 9:6-8, when Jesus is challenged about his authority to forgive sins, he proves his authority by healing a paralyzed man. In John 3:35 we read, “The Father loves the Son and put everything in his hands.” This means Jesus has authority over all heaven and earth. He reigns as our supreme King.

7. Based on his authority, Jesus goes on to give us our “marching orders” we call The Great Commission. **What has Jesus commissioned us to do?**

LEADER NOTE: Jesus has given us authority to go and make other follows of him. We do this through teaching others about Jesus and by baptizing them. While we are not all professional pastors or missionaries, all followers of Jesus are commissioned by him to be part of this exciting work. We go, not in our own authority, but in the authority and power of Jesus.

8. **“What is a teaching in the Bible that you wrestle with the most? (Consider the morals presented, the teachings about God’s character and actions etc.)”**

LEADER NOTE: There are many teachings in the Bible that can be difficult for us to understand or accept. For example, the Bible teaches we are to “be perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect.” (Matthew 5:48). The Bible teaches about the wrath and judgment of God when it says, “The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people ...” (Romans 1:18). Your group members may have questions or difficulties too great to speak to in your group time. If we can help you with speaking to any of the challenges your group members have with teachings in the Bible, please feel free to contact Jeff and jeff.austen@creeksidechurch.ca

9. **What habit or practice helps you stay on track with seeing the Bible as authoritative in your life?**

LEADER NOTE: The spiritual formation habits of Bible reading, meditation on Scripture, prayer and time in community with other followers of Jesus are all helpful in sharpening our focus on the authority of Scripture.

10. What next step might you take to live in the authority of the Bible?

PRAYER

Creekside supports several missionaries in their work in various places around the world. Today, let's pray for some of those missionaries. Pray for Kelley Myles and Hannah Miller with Power to Change Digital Strategies: Hannah directs the Farsi ministry and writes: most of our Persian mentors are refugees and they need God's provision in their life and encouragement for their ministry.

- We celebrate having 873 volunteer mentors responding to messages from all over the world. We continue to have a need for more Mentor Coaches, these are volunteer leaders who mentor our mentors. Please pray with us that we would see at least 5 more Mentor Coaches raised up by June.

- We also are in need of more full and part-time labourers in digital ministry! There is an urgent need for more labourers to join our Tech Team. We would also like to see God grow our team to help us reach our scope. This means adding to our number in almost every role, more administrators, more mentor support, more help with mentor resources and writers for content, designers etc.