

Family Devotional

From March 19, 2017

Play: Put on your favorite music and play *Follow the Leader- Dance Edition*. Choose one person to start and lead the group in whatever dance moves they want to do. The goal is for everyone to follow the leader as closely as they can. Set a time for 1 minutes. Once the timer goes off switch leaders. Give everyone a chance to lead if they want to.

Now talk about the experience. Why did you follow the leader? What would happen if you chose not to follow the leader? Who and what do you think of when you hear the word authority? Let's read a story about people who were asking Jesus very similar questions.

Read: Mark 11:27-33

Reflect: The gospels are full of people asking Jesus questions and we know that He usually welcomes them. Why do you think He did not answer the chief priests, teachers of the law and elders directly?

What do you think their motives were for asking Jesus this question?

Jesus cares deeply about the motives of our heart. The way He responds shows He knows they were trying to trick Him, so He turns the tables and asks them an equally tricky question. His questions also revealed something they were very afraid of. What was that?

Chief priests, teachers of the law and elders all held very high positions of authority in the Jewish religious circles. Here comes Jesus, a new teacher that speaks with authority, and they might feel like their position is being challenged. When people are placed in a position of authority they can either use it as an opportunity to help those they have authority over or they can use it to make themselves feel more important.

Who gave Jesus His authority and how do you think He used it? Read John 17:2-3 to find the answer.

Jesus always used His authority not to point to Himself but to point others to God the Father! Jesus also gave His disciples authority. Not because He wanted them to feel cool and important, but so they could help Him in His work of telling others about how much their heavenly father loves them. Read this awesome story of how Peter and John were great witnesses for God through the power of the Holy Spirit. Read Acts 5:25-33.

God has placed Jesus as an authority in our lives, but just like we can choose to obey or disobey our parents, we can choose to follow Jesus as the leader of our life or not follow him. What would have happened if you didn't follow the leader in our game?

No one was making you do what the leader did, but it is so much more fun and exciting to be in the midst of activity than just watching from the sidelines. Jesus is inviting you to make Him an authority in your life, and in doing so, to join Him on an amazing adventure!

Remember: Work together as a family to memorize/meditate on Romans 10:9 this week.

If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Ideas: Write this passage down and hang it on the refrigerator. Say it together as a family during meal time each day. Write it on a chalk or white board and erase a couple of words each day until you can say it by memory.

Respond: "Dear God, thank you for loving me and putting people in authority to help protect me and keep me safe. Help me to follow Jesus every day and recognize Him as Lord of my life.Amen."