



PWOC

Protestant Women of the Chapel

WORKSHOP: LEAD WITH AUTHORITY

by Kristin Hathaway

PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

RELEVANCE: Understanding authority helps us lead well. We all need to know how to be under authority and to properly exercise the authority we have been given. This workshop pulls from the examples of both biblical and present-day leaders; some who got it right, and some who made mistakes.

1. DEFINITION OF AUTHORITY

What is Authority?

Let's look at some words (3 Hebrew, 1 Greek) from the Bible which are translated "authority."

- **yad** (yawd):

(Example: *They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the **authority** of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food.* Genesis 41:35)

- **toqeph** (to-kef) :

(Example: *So Queen Esther, daughter of Abihail, along with Mordecai the Jew, wrote with full **authority** to confirm this second letter concerning Purim.* Esther 9:29)



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- **moshel** (mo-shel):

(Example: *See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the war-horses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His **rule** will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth. Zechariah 9:9-10)*

- **exousia** (ex-oo-see-ah):

(Example: *Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of Man has **authority** on earth to forgive sins, He said to the paralytic, 'I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.'* Mark 2:9-11)

- Dictionary.com defines authority as "the power to determine, adjudicate, or otherwise settle issues or disputes; jurisdiction; the right to control, command, or determine; a power or right that is delegated."

ENGAGE YOUR LEARNERS 1:

So, thinking about those definitions, what is NOT authority? Turn to one or two people near you and take a couple minutes to brainstorm what authority is *not*.

What is NOT Authority?



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II. THE SHELTER OF AUTHORITY

You are under authority. We are all under authority. Even Jesus was under authority. Everyone answers to someone.

- I Samuel 15:17-29
 - Who was the authority?
 - Did others submit to that authority?
 - What was the result?
 - What might have happened if authority had been honored?

- I Samuel 24:1-18
 - Who was the authority?
 - Did others submit to that authority?
 - What was the result?
 - What might have happened if authority had not been honored?

PWOC SCENARIOS:

Work with a partner or in a small group of no more than four people. Read the scenario together. Discuss ways to come under authority in the situation and the benefits of coming under the authority in each scenario. You will have the opportunity to share with the larger group.



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III. AUTHORITY IN MOTION

We all fall under authority and must be careful to remain in the shelter of that authority. But we all also possess God-given authority that must be exercised for the good of ourselves and others.

- Selections from Esther 3:8-9; 4:4-17; 5:1-8; 7:1-7; 8:3-8; 8:11

Likely you are not in a life-or-death situation, but yet you have God-given authority that has the potential to affect outcomes in the lives that are under the shelter of your spiritual umbrella- your family, your friends, your team members. Authority as a title is meaningless until it is put into motion.

THINK ABOUT IT:

Think of the people in your life over whom God has granted you authority. Are you exercising that authority? How can God-given authority be put into motion? If the word "authority" still seems foreign to you, substitute the word "influence." In what relationships, what friendships, what roles, has God given you influence?

Consider the following thoughts:

- **Luke 10:17** says that the demons were subject to the apostles in Jesus' name. Is that also true in your life? Do you have jurisdiction there? Could you?
- **Romans 6:22** says we have been set free from sin; it is a defeated foe. Do we allow sin to rule in our lives? Is God calling us to stand in a place of authority? What about with others?
- **Acts 3:6** says that Peter spoke healing in the name of Jesus and the lame man walked. Could God also use you to bring healing to others? What about spiritual healing?

The common thread is Jesus. It is HIS name, HIS authority, HIS power. We can become conduits of Who He is to a world that very much needs Him. The people in my world, under my God-given authority, in my sphere of influence, can experience the beautiful shelter that can come through my submission to His authority. I can be proactive in extending that gift of shelter to others.

What is God calling you to do? Who in your life especially needs your shelter? Pause for a moment to pray about it.



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APPLY IT TO LIFE:

Look back through your notes. Take a few minutes and write down one point that stood out to you and a way you will exercise your authority differently as a result of what you have learned. You'll have the chance to share with the group if you'd like to.

Pray. Dismiss.



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