

## Luke 8:22-56

### *Stories of Authority and Faith*

#### Study Summary and Learning Objectives

This study will look at four different stories where Jesus proves His authority over all things. We will see how the characters in each story approach Jesus and react to His display of power. We will be dialoguing about how our faith interacts with Jesus' authority and can ultimately change how we view the situations we find ourselves in.

#### Objectives

- Recognize that God has authority over everything and that His authority does not depend on our faith.
- Understand that believing in God's authority changes how we do life.

#### Steps to Prepare (For Leaders)

- Decide how many groups you will break into for that portion of the study. Brainstorm answers as needed.

#### Questions for Discussion

**Pray for your time together as a group.**

**Read Out Loud:** In the passage that we're looking at tonight, we'll see a few examples of how God's authority and our faith interact.

? Describe a time when you felt like you had authority. What did it look like?

? How does someone or something have authority today?

*Possible Answers: Work hard to gain a certain position at work, a fancy title, demonstrating power, someone with greater authority grants it to you, etc.*

#### Read Out Loud: Luke 8:22-56 (NIV)

<sup>22</sup> One day Jesus said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side of the lake." So they got into a boat and set out. <sup>23</sup> As they sailed, he fell asleep. A squall came down on the lake, so that the boat was being swamped, and they were in great danger.

<sup>24</sup> The disciples went and woke him, saying, "Master, Master, we're going to drown!"

#### Definitions

**Authority:** The power to give orders or make decisions; the power or right to direct or control someone or something

**Faith:** Strong belief or trust in someone or something

\*Merriam-Webster

He got up and rebuked the wind and the raging waters; the storm subsided, and all was calm. <sup>25</sup> “Where is your faith?” he asked his disciples.

In fear and amazement they asked one another, “Who is this? He commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him.”

<sup>26</sup> They sailed to the region of the Gerasenes, which is across the lake from Galilee. <sup>27</sup> When Jesus stepped ashore, he was met by a demon-possessed man from the town. For a long time this man had not worn clothes or lived in a house, but had lived in the tombs. <sup>28</sup> When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don’t torture me!” <sup>29</sup> For Jesus had commanded the impure spirit to come out of the man. Many times it had seized him, and though he was chained hand and foot and kept under guard, he had broken his chains and had been driven by the demon into solitary places.

<sup>30</sup> Jesus asked him, “What is your name?”

“Legion,” he replied, because many demons had gone into him. <sup>31</sup> And they begged Jesus repeatedly not to order them to go into the Abyss.

<sup>32</sup> A large herd of pigs was feeding there on the hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into the pigs, and he gave them permission. <sup>33</sup> When the demons came out of the man, they went into the pigs, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

<sup>34</sup> When those tending the pigs saw what had happened, they ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, <sup>35</sup> and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone out, sitting at Jesus’ feet, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. <sup>36</sup> Those who had seen it told the people how the demon-possessed man had been cured. <sup>37</sup> Then all the people of the region of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them, because they were overcome with fear. So he got into the boat and left.

<sup>38</sup> The man from whom the demons had gone out begged to go with him, but Jesus sent him away, saying, <sup>39</sup> “Return home and tell how much God has done for you.” So the man went away and told all over town how much Jesus had done for him.

<sup>40</sup> Now when Jesus returned, a crowd welcomed him, for they were all expecting him. <sup>41</sup> Then a man named Jairus, a synagogue leader, came and fell at Jesus’ feet, pleading with him to come to his house <sup>42</sup> because his only daughter, a girl of about twelve, was dying.

As Jesus was on his way, the crowds almost crushed him. <sup>43</sup> And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. <sup>44</sup> She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped.

<sup>45</sup> “Who touched me?” Jesus asked.

When they all denied it, Peter said, “Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you.”

<sup>46</sup> But Jesus said, “Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me.”

<sup>47</sup> Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed. <sup>48</sup> Then he said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace.”

<sup>49</sup> While Jesus was still speaking, someone came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. “Your daughter is dead,” he said. “Don’t bother the teacher anymore.”

<sup>50</sup> Hearing this, Jesus said to Jairus, “Don’t be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed.”

<sup>51</sup> When he arrived at the house of Jairus, he did not let anyone go in with him except Peter, John and James, and the child’s father and mother. <sup>52</sup> Meanwhile, all the people were wailing and mourning for her. “Stop wailing,” Jesus said. “She is not dead but asleep.”

<sup>53</sup> They laughed at him, knowing that she was dead. <sup>54</sup> But he took her by the hand and said, “My child, get up!” <sup>55</sup> Her spirit returned, and at once she stood up. Then Jesus told them to give her something to eat. <sup>56</sup> Her parents were astonished, but he ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened.

## Breaking It Down

**Read to the Group:** Let’s break into smaller groups now and take some time to reflect on these four stories. Please discuss the questions on your handout for each story. When we’re done, each group will share what they’ve learned with all of us.

- Group 1: Calming the Storm (vv. 22-25)
- Group 2: Casting out Demons (vv. 26-39)
- Group 3: Healing the Bleeding Woman (vv. 40-48)
- Group 4: Resurrecting Jairus’s Daughter (vv. 40-56)

*Leaders’ Note: If you have a smaller group, then pick one or two of the stories to discuss in a smaller setting. We encourage you to make sure that you cover the healing of the bleeding woman as that story tends to be lesser known. Please take 5-10 minutes for this activity, depending on how much your group likes to talk.*

**In your groups, please discuss the following:**

? What stands out to you in this story?

? In what area(s) does Jesus display His authority in this story? Why is that significant?

*Possible Answers: Creation (nature), illness, death (mortality), the spiritual realm (demons), doubt. Nothing is beyond God’s grasp.*

**?** How did the main character(s) in this story approach Jesus, and how did they respond when His power was displayed?

*Possible Answers: The disciples were filled with fear and came to Jesus, but were still surprised when He was able to calm the storm; the demon-possessed man recognized His authority and left proclaiming what Jesus had done for him (the townspeople were filled with fear at Jesus' authority and asked Jesus to leave); the bleeding woman approached Jesus humbly (not wanting to be seen) and put all of her faith in the authority of Jesus to heal; Jairus came to Jesus to heal his daughter, but once she dies, his family laughs at Jesus when Jesus speaks of His authority over death, they are amazed when He brings her back to life.*

### Questions for Discussion

*Leader's Note: You may be able to skip this first question based on how your groups report out from their discussion times.*

**?** Optional: How did faith and authority interact in the stories you discussed?

*Possible Answers: The disciples clearly know they should approach Jesus about the storm, but are surprised and confused when He has the power to fix it. The bleeding woman realizes that even her problem (which so many others had tried to address) is not too big for Jesus.*

**?** In what ways have you seen God display His authority in your life or the lives of those around you? How was faith a component?

**?** What does it look like for us to acknowledge God's authority over all things?

*Possible Answers: By believing He will do what He says. Faith when things are hard, scary (death, thunderstorms, remembering what God did in the past, God's immutability).*

**?** As we saw in this passage, recognizing God's authority and believing in it can be two very different things. Why do we struggle with this? How can we help each other move forward in this area?

*Possible Answers: We often struggle with the application of God's authority in our lives because of sin and doubt; we can encourage each other with Scripture where Jesus has shown His full authority and can challenge one another to reflect on and cling to those times in our own lives where God has proven Himself powerful and faithful.*

### **For Discussion and Accountability**

**?** Do you believe that Christ has ultimate power and authority over all areas of your life? And if so, how is that changing your perspective on difficult or fear-filled situations, prolonged suffering and/or even death?

**?** In the stories we looked at tonight, we saw people's first responses towards Christ. What is your first response when encountering difficulty?