

# Series: Light of the World

## Session Title: Jesus' Authority (Mk. 1:7-11, Matt. 21:23-27)

Date and Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Students: \_\_\_\_\_

### Materials Needed:

- ☐ VHS copy of the movie *The Pacifier* (beginning at 59:08 with the director of The Sound of Music leaving to 1:01:13 where the cast says, "Sir, yes sir")
- ☐ Pens
- ☐ Scrap paper
- ☐ Bibles

### Lesson Objectives:

As a result of this lesson, students will be able to...

- Identify that both John the Baptist and God the Father testified to Jesus' authority.
- Decide and declare whether they accept or reject Jesus' authority.

### Pastoral Objectives:

---



---



---



---



---

### Lead In:

Set up this clip for the group by saying something like, "In this clip, Lt. Wolfe (Vin Diesel) is about to tell a drama class why he should direct a musical after the director quit." Before you play the clip, solicit from students a variety of credentials they expect to hear. Play the scene from *The Pacifier* where the lead character tells the drama crew why he is qualified to direct *The Sound of Music*.

At the end of the clip, ask the students if their predictions were accurate. Then transition by saying something like this:

*Tonight we will continue considering the issue of authority. We follow orders when we accept a person's authority over us. We follow our teachers' instructions because of the authority given them by the school boards. We follow our parents' rules because they have parental authority. When Jesus taught as a rabbi, people around saw that he taught with authority. The Hebrew word for that is s'mikah. Jesus also claims to have authority that was given to him. Let's see how he got it in the first place.*

## Who Has Authority?:

Tell the students that they are going to pair up to decide on the authority of some other characters. Tell them to get into pairs and that each pair needs a pen and scrap paper (provide these). Once they are in pairs with pen and paper, assign them the following task:

*With your partner, you are going to look up four biblical passages that talk about four different characters. You must decide whether the character in question had authority or not. Please make a note of these four passages and characters:*

1. Peter in Matthew 16:16
2. The thief on the cross in Luke 23:39-43
3. John the Baptist in John 1:29-31
4. The demons in Matthew 8:28-32

Now give the students time to read and respond. Afterwards, poll the groups to find their answers. Allow them to debate if necessary before saying something like this:

*Did you know that according to Jewish custom a rabbi only had authority if two other people with recognized authority granted it to him? Does that change your answer?*

*The only character from the above list with that kind of authority is clearly John the Baptist. [See Matthew 21:23-27]*

## Jesus' Authority:

Solicit two volunteers to read aloud Mark 1:7-11. Before they do, tell the other students that they are going to hear their peers read Mark 1:7-11 and that they are looking for the answer to this question: "What two people gave Jesus his authority?" Once they think they have the answer, they should not blurt out the answer; they should raise their left hand. Make sure they understand (check the instructions) and then have both volunteers read Mark 1:7-11, one after the other. When hands are raised, select some students to give their answer. Are they all in agreement? The answer is John the Baptist and God the Father.

The leader could say something like this:

*Jesus' authority was recognized as given by both John the Baptist and, even more importantly, God the Father himself. Jesus has been given the authority to lead us. The question is, do we accept it?*

Depending on your group, you could now split them up into pairs or small groups in order to answer this question: Do you think that Jesus had the authority to do and say what he does? Why or why not? Be prepared to share your answers with your small group. This could conclude in a time of prayer.