

1. Have you ever been in a situation where it was unclear who had authority? Describe how the lack of clear authority complicated the environment.
2. Read John 5:1–8. What miracle does Jesus perform to further establish his authority as the Son of God?
3. Read John 5:9–12. How does this miracle demonstrate Jesus' authority over both pagan and legalistic practice?
4. Read John 5:13–14. What evidence do we have that the healed man still lacked faith? What does Jesus invite him to in v14?
5. Read John 5:15–18. How does Jesus' saving act encounter resistance? What rationale does Jesus give for proving his detractors wrong (v17)? Discuss how Jesus has the authority to do this.
6. Read John 5:19–23. How does Jesus describe his own relationship with the Father in these verses? Why is the theology in these verses essential for understanding Jesus' authority to carry out the Father's wishes? What implications does that have for us?
7. Read John 5:24. What does Jesus require of us in response to his authority?
8. Read John 5:24–29. What immediate impact does Jesus' authority have for those who believe? How about eternal impact? What about for those who reject Jesus and his authority?
9. Are you like the man who was healed, more afraid of the earthly authorities than submissive to Christ's? Or are you willing to submit to the authority of the Son? If so, in what ways can you participate under his authority today?