

TRAPPED

EXPLORING THE FREEDOM OF AUTHORITY

Trapped

Small Group Material

Participant Guide

Part 5 - "Trusted Authority"

October 16th, 2016

Bottom Line: *We are trusting authority and trusted with authority.*

Study Verses: *Romans 14:13-19, Matthew 16:13-20, John 5:39-40 and Romans 15:1-7*

Key Points

- *When we look to God's Word just to find God's laws, we will often find loopholes. However, if we look to God's Word to find God Himself, we find life.*
- *If you can trust Him with the first step, you can trust Him with the next one.*
- *Authority requires responsibility. We've been given authority to empower others and point them towards freedom.*
- *Our obedience is not about gaining access to the Kingdom, but for our lives to serve as an expression of the Kingdom.*
- *God's love should be the driving force in our lives because this is what God uses to bring His Kingdom to bear in this world.*
- *True peace is centered on who is standing beside you rather than what is happening around you.*
- *What our world is looking for is the Kingdom of God because that is the Kingdom we were made for.*

ENCOUNTER

- What is the danger in approaching the Bible just to find God's laws? When you take this approach what are you truly looking for?
- Describe a time when you read your Bible with a red pen and attempted to alter God's commands to fit your agenda. What often drives this search for loopholes and out clauses?
- You've been given authority. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not? What makes you answer in the way that you do? What are you doing with the authority you've been given?

FORMATION

- Read Matthew 16:13-20. What authority have we been given by Christ? How does trusting in His authority enable us to steward our authority well and in the way it was designed?
- Read John 5:39-40. According to this passage, what is the purpose of Scripture? How does all of God's Word, including His commands, point its readers to the person of Jesus and our need for Him?
- Read Romans 14:13-19 and Romans 15:1-7. How does this passage speak to the communal implications of our individual obedience? What should motivate our submission to God's authority? Why do the strong and weak in faith need each other?

EXPRESSION

- The way in which we see the world influences the condition of our heart which in turn gets expressed in how we live our lives. What lens are you currently using to view the world around you? How is this lens shaping your perspective as well as your response to the situations you face?
- How has your view of authority changed as a result of this series? What was the greatest insight you've gained? Where do tensions and questions still exist?
- If you can trust Him with the first step, you can trust Him with the next one. What is your next right step of faith when it comes to submitting to God's authority? What would it look like to have a Kingdom mindset in this area?