



LIFELINE Discussion Guide

Week of November 25, 2024

1. Can you think of a time when you were “under-estimated?” Did someone question your abilities, your intellect, your work ethic, or your talents? Share the story of what happened and how you responded.
2. Have your group read Luke 20:1-8 aloud. Each group member should read one verse. How would you summarize this story in your own words?
3. The Sanhedrin Council was the ruling council over the nation of Israel. They were granted a delegated authority from the Roman Empire to bring leadership to Jewish people regarding religious life and laws. Why did the Sanhedrin send a delegation to confront Jesus? How or why was Jesus a threat to them?
4. Read John 15:18-19. What kind of treatment should you expect from today’s secular culture as a follower of Jesus? Does this worry you? Why or why not?
5. Jesus doesn’t fall into the religious leaders’ verbal trap. Instead, he turns the tables on them with a powerful counter-question about John the Baptist. If they will answer honestly about John the Baptist, then they will have their answer about Jesus’ authority. What do you know about John the Baptist’s ministry? (Read John 1:29-34 and 3:30).
6. Jesus praised John the Baptist for “setting the stage” for Him and laboring in the shadows. Why is this so encouraging for many Christians like us in the here and now? (see 1 Corinthians 15:58)
7. Jesus question to the religious elites really put them into a dilemma in verses 5-6. Only two options were available to them as potential answers. Explain why they didn’t like either answer. What did they ultimately say to Jesus in verse 7? Why was this answer so under-handed and evil?
8. Everyone is influenced by various kinds of “authority” in today’s world. Explain in your own words how these authorities listed below exercise influence over people’s hearts and minds:
 - *Secular culture: movies, music, social media, television and news media*
 - *Politics and political leaders*
 - *Friends and family members*
 - *Self*
9. Why should Jesus be the ultimate authority for your life? (read John 14:6 and Colossians 2:2-3) What are some tangible ways you can seek out, understand, and embrace Jesus’ authority in your everyday life?

In a deceitful world filled with dishonest dealers, Jesus’ authority still dominates.