



Sunday Recap Guide

Alignment Brings Authority

Big Idea:

When we are aligned with Jesus, we don't move in our own strength—we walk in *His authority* and *His presence*. Alignment precedes authority.

E — Encouragement

Opening Prompt (for everyone):

- Share one **high** and one **low** from your week.

Icebreaker Question:

- When you hear the word *authority*, what comes to mind—something positive, negative, or mixed? Why?

S — Scripture

Primary Passage

Matthew 28:18–20 (NIV)

“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.’”

Scripture Breakdown

1. Authority Begins With Jesus

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.” (v.18)

Jesus doesn’t *claim* authority—He *possesses* it. Every other authority in our lives (fear, culture, pressure, habits, opinions) is secondary to Him.

Key Truth:

If Jesus has all authority, then **nothing in your life outranks Him.**

If it bows to Jesus, it does not rule you.

Discussion Questions:

- What are some things that tend to compete for authority in our lives?
- How do we know when something has quietly taken a place only Jesus should have?

2. Alignment Precedes Assignment

“Therefore go and make disciples...” (v.19)

The “go” is powered by the “all authority.” We don’t represent ourselves—we represent Jesus.

Key Insight:

We don’t need **louder prayers**, we need **deeper surrender**.

Prayer realigns us with God before it releases God’s authority through us.

Discussion Questions:

- Have you ever tried to live God’s way without staying aligned with God Himself?
- How does prayer shift from asking God to do things *for us* to aligning us *with Him*?

3. Obedience Is a Fruit of Alignment

“Teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” (v.20)

Obedience isn’t about control—it’s about trust. Alignment with Jesus naturally produces obedience to Jesus.

John 5:19 (NIV)

“The Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing...”

Even Jesus modeled alignment before action.

Discussion Questions:

- Why do you think obedience sometimes feels heavy instead of freeing?
- What's one command or teaching of Jesus that challenges you most right now?

4. Authority Is Sustained by His Presence

“And surely I am with you always...” (v.20)

We are never sent alone. Authority without presence would be overwhelming—but Jesus promises both.

Supporting Scriptures:

- **Proverbs 18:21** – Our words carry life or death; alignment shapes what we speak.
- **James 4:7** – “Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

Key Truth:

Submission comes *before* resistance. Alignment comes *before* authority.

Discussion Questions:

- How does knowing Jesus is “with you always” change how you face challenges?
- What might submission to God look like practically this week?

P — Prayer

Prayer Prompts:

- Ask God to reveal areas of your life that are **out of alignment**.
- Pray for a deeper spirit of **surrender**, not striving.
- Invite the Holy Spirit to help you walk in **Jesus' authority**, not your own strength.
- Thank Jesus for His **constant presence** in every season.

Group Prayer Time:

- Ask: “*How can we pray for you this week?*”
- Encourage the group to pray for one another out loud if they’re comfortable.

N — Next Steps

Personal Next Steps

- Identify **one area** where you need greater alignment with Jesus.
- Commit to a **daily prayer rhythm** focused on surrender, not just requests.
- Pay attention to your **words** this week—are they aligned with life or death?
- Practice obedience in one small, specific way God is prompting you.

Church Next Steps

- Take a step toward **discipleship**: serving, mentoring, or being discipled.
- If you’re new to faith, consider **Starting Point or Raised to Life classes**.