

ministry to
» youth

BOSS

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Lesson 01



Lesson 1: Who's your boss?



Bible Verses: Romans 13:1-2



Bottom Line: Healthy authorities help us become healthy people

SUPPLIES

01 GAME SUPPLIES

- Be ready to share a funny example of a bad decision you made.

02 NOTES

- All Scripture references are NLT unless otherwise indicated.

OPENING GAME

(IN-PERSON VERSION)

_____ Says

GAME SETUP:

- We're playing "Simon Says," but insert your game leader's name instead of Simon. Ex: "Nicky Says."
- Before the game begins, be prepared with your "Simon Says" strategy. If you need some help, watch <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QDwqm4h35AU> or search for other videos on "The Best Simon Says Caller."

HOW TO PLAY THE GAME:

Say:

- Tonight, we all get to participate because we're playing an all-time classic game: "____ Says."
- Everyone stand up! ... Everyone who's standing is out!
- Just kidding, we haven't started yet, but now we're starting ...

Play until you have 5-10 people left, and bring them up front to finish.

When you get down to the last two or three, declare them winners, then tell them to go sit down ... then call them out if they move!

OPENING GAME

(ONLINE VERSION)

_____ Says

GAME SETUP:

- Same as in-person setup

HOW TO PLAY THE GAME:

Same as in-person, but use calls that you can easily see on screen.

TEACH

What's up everybody?

I'm so happy to see you all here tonight!

Welcome to the first night of a brand-new series called "Boss," where we'll be talking about the authorities – or bosses – in our lives and how they can help us.

Sort of like how _____ was your boss when we played "_____ Says!"

Thanks for playing along, by the way ... you guys are awesome!

Have you ever noticed how much fun something is when it's your idea?

For example, let's say you're home one day, and you're really bored ... so you decide to fold clothes, or take out the trash, or empty the dishwasher, or clean up your nasty room because it's so bad you can't even see the carpet anymore and the smell is like something from a bathroom at a Taco Bell.

Anyway ...

So, you do whatever it is, and you feel pretty good about it, and your parents say, "Thank you, child! You're amazing! We're very, very thankful."

Now let's say on that same day, after you decided to do whatever it is, but before you actually did it, your parents texted and said, "Hey, child, can you please do [whatever it is]?"

How would you feel about doing whatever it is now?

[Give a minute to interact with student responses.]

Isn't that weird?

When it comes to choosing the chore and the time it actually takes out of your day, there's no difference in Scenario 1, where it's your idea, and Scenario 2, where your parents tell you that you have to do something.

But your attitude about Scenario 1 is great, and your attitude about Scenario 2 is stinky ... like a Taco Bell bathroom.

You know why it feels different. In Scenario 1, it was your idea, and in Scenario 2, your parents told you what you had to do.

It doesn't matter what the thing is – chores, homework, building a treehouse – it's always more fun when it's your idea.

We all resist being TOLD what to do.

This new series is called, “**Boss**,” and tonight's message is titled, “Who's your boss?”

In this series, we'll be unpacking this idea of authority in our lives and how we interact with it.

Throughout the series, I'll use the words “boss” and “authority” synonymously. Sounds good? Good!

Back to our two scenarios: no one likes to have authorities – we all want to do what we want to do.

This mindset started at the very beginning, in the first book of the Bible – Genesis – with the first humans we meet – Adam and Eve – and it hasn't slowed down one bit.

In Genesis, God gave Adam and Eve essentially unlimited freedom ... except for one simple instruction: don't eat the fruit from this one tree.

They could eat whatever they wanted from any other trees, but God said this one tree was off-limits.

So, what did they do?

Ate from that tree.

Then lied about it.

Because no one likes being told what they can and can't do.

But the reality is, we all have bosses ... lots of them.

- There's parents, grandparents, and other adults in your family.

- You've got teachers, principals, coaches, and band leaders.
- If you work, there are managers, shift managers, and crew chiefs.
- The police are your authority. Even if you're out and about doing something like fishing, there are regulatory agencies that have authority over it.
- Even Disney World and Universal have security.

We all have bosses, and just because we don't like it doesn't make it any less true.

And let's be honest – we let other people and their ideas be our authority too.

- If a friend says we should or shouldn't do something, we do or don't do it.
- If a social media influencer we admire does or doesn't like something, we like or don't like it too.

We even let the culture around us shape us.

- If culture wants someone to be canceled, it's hard for us to go against that flow of ideas.
- If there's a popular opinion about celebrities, movies, music, or about social ideas, it's almost impossible to stand up against that mindset.

We all have “bosses” or authorities – people or ideas that influence us.

Sometimes by choice, sometimes not.

Let me ask maybe a weird question: Why do we resist authority?

What is it about us that rebels against anyone telling us what to do or not do?

Let's have some **Mandatory Fun Time** and try to answer that.

[IN-PERSON GROUPS]

Get in a group of three to four and discuss the question, “Do we need authority in our life or not and why?”

[Give students a few minutes to share, then invite some to share their thoughts, interacting as they do.]

[VIRTUAL GROUPS]

In the chat window, answer the question, “Do we need authority in our life or not?”

[Interact for a few moments as students write in responses.]

Interesting ... now, in the chat window, tell me WHY you answered the way you did.

Maybe you think we don't need authority because we can figure things out on our own ... type that in the window.

Or maybe you think we do need authority, so we don't make a bunch of dumb mistakes ... type that in the window.

[Give students a few minutes to share, interacting as their answers post in the window.]

There are lots of opinions about the idea of authority and whether we need it or not.

Before I tell you what the Bible says, let's have one more round of Mandatory Fun Time.

Let me get a few of you to share with the group – what is the worst decision you ever made?

For example, *[share your own funny example]*.

What are some examples of terrible decisions you made?

[Give students a few minutes to share, interacting as they share their answers or post in the window.]

These are reasons why we need authority: none of us are smart enough or wise enough to make right decisions all the time.

Most of think we're smarter and wiser than we are.

We need healthy authorities to give us guidance and structure.

We need authorities because they help us learn teamwork.

They help us learn how we fit with others.

Healthy authorities help us become healthy people.

But why would we be talking about this here, in this setting?

Let's look at what the Bible says.

Does anyone remember a guy named Paul from the Bible?

Paul was a guy who had a crazy encounter with Jesus that totally changed his life.

Because of this encounter, Paul wanted everyone to know how great Jesus was, so he would travel from town to town and start telling people about Jesus.

Once a few people said "yes" to Jesus, Paul would help them organize into a church, then he would head to the next town.

Occasionally, he would write letters back to these churches, and some of these letters are what makes up a good chunk of the New Testament.

One of these letters was written to the church in Rome, and the letter is called the book of Romans.

Would someone read **Romans 13:1-2** out loud for the group?

[I LOVE having students read the Bible out loud, but if it doesn't work for your group, you or another adult can read it.]

1 Everyone must submit to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God.

2 So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished.

Thanks for reading for us.

If you're a thinking person, you've probably got some questions after hearing this passage.

Let's take a minute and unpack what Paul is saying.

First, the book of Romans is written to Christ-followers, so when Paul says, "everyone," he means all Christ-followers.

So, if you're a follower of Jesus, these words are for you.

Second, when Paul says, "governing authorities," he means anyone or any group that has authority over you.

For example, that long list of things we shared earlier: parents, grandparents, teachers, principals, managers, crew chiefs, police, etc.

All followers of Jesus must submit – or obey – what our authorities tell us.

Third, Paul says all authority has been put in place by God.

Clearly there are a small number of exceptions, for example people or systems that take advantage of people or do horrible, evil things.

If you want to do some more study, read the rest of Romans 13 later, and you can hear Paul describe what healthy authority does for us.

But let's be careful and not declare our school principal evil because he or she enforces the school dress code.

According to Paul, you should assume all authorities in your life were put there by God to teach you something.

Fourth, and this is the toughie: Paul says if you rebel against authority, you're actually rebelling against God.

Ouch. That's a tough word. And that's why we're talking about it here.

Healthy authorities help us become healthy people.

And before we dismiss an authority as unhealthy and decide we don't have to submit to it, we should probably remember Paul's words that rebelling against authority is actually rebelling against God.

And remember what we said earlier: we need healthy authorities to give us guidance and structure.

All of us are prone to get wrapped up in emotion and make bad decisions.

Healthy authorities help us live with wisdom and with purpose.

We need some healthy authority in our lives ... we need a good "boss."

So, who's your boss? Who (or what) most influences who you are and how you live?

Are you your own boss, so if something feels right to you, you do it?

Do you follow what the most popular students in your school think, and if they believe in something, you believe in it?

Are you committed to the celebrities and influencers you follow, and if they like something, you like it?

Every one of us is following someone ... so who are you following?

For the next few weeks, we're going to talk about why it's wise to allow God to be our boss, and how He speaks to us to lead us.

We've been saying all night that **"Healthy authorities help us become healthy people."**

Because everything God does is rooted in love – because God is love – there's not a better option than God when it comes to choosing an authority in our lives.

So, who's your boss?

I want you to really think about that ... and if you realize now or even later that you aren't allowing God to be your boss, I challenge you to talk to me or your small group leader about it.

For now, go have a great small group!

[Close in prayer.]



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is something that seemed really fun in your head, but when you did it, it turned out to be not quite so fun?
- What are some examples of some decisions you made that turned out terribly?
 - First, answer it with stories that ended up funny or lighthearted.
 - Then, if anyone wants, you can answer with stories that maybe had a more painful ending.
- Why do we think we know what's best for us, when we all have examples of bad decisions we've made?
- After hearing tonight's message, how would you answer the question: Who's your boss?
- Why is it in our nature to resist any authority in our lives?
- In **Romans 13**, Paul said all authority comes from God, but we know some authorities are in active rebellion against God. How do we determine whether we should submit to the authorities in our lives?
- How does rebelling against authority impact our relationship with God?
- How can rebelling against authority impact our relationship with others?
- Earlier we asked, "Who's your boss?" What are some changes you need to make to invite God to be your boss and submit to His authority in your life?