PWOC

Protestant Women of the Chapel

-chart paper/white board, markers
-big, fun umbrella
-scenarios printed
-Esther references on index cards

# WORKSHOP: LEAD WITH AUTHORITY

**by Kristin Hathaway**

## LEADER'S GUIDE

**RELEVANCE:** Understanding authority helps us lead well. We all need to know how to be under authority and to properly exercise the authority we have been given. This workshop pulls from the examples of both biblical and present-day leaders; some who got it right, and some who made mistakes.

**CONTEXT:** This workshop is applicable to anyone in Christian ministry to include all members of the PWOC board, but it also applies to marriage and parenting as well as other relationships. Because of this, the content is appropriate for everyone and can be used in a variety of venues- board training, a whole-group devotion, etc.

**TIME:** 55-65 minutes

**HOOK YOUR AUDIENCE:** (5 minutes)

I'd like to see a show of hands…is anyone here in authority? *Take a few minutes to ask them what their roles of authority are.*

> *Note to Trainer: This simple question will be very telling. Pay attention to who raises their hand and who does not. Listen carefully to the responses and carefully introduce the fact that everyone is in authority in some form or another. Build on the answers that your participants provide rather than immediately supplying the "right" answers.*

*Note: It's best if the trainer inserts her own story here.*

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*Kristin's story:* I am going to tell you a story about a leader who did not properly exercise her authority. It had some very serious negative results. I have her permission to share her story and I hope we can all learn something from her mistakes.

This leader was the president of PWOC at Fort Irwin, CA. She wasn't confident in her role, which made others distrust her leadership. She was afraid for anyone to even know she was the PWOC President- basically, she was afraid to be the authority. The group needed someone to make a decision occasionally and they needed someone to be responsible for the group. Because this president did not have a clear understanding of her authority, the PWOC board was affected. An atmosphere of insecure leadership followed, which eventually transferred to the PWOC body.

This president was me. I have made a lot of leadership mistakes. I can tell you all the "what-not-to-dos." Sometimes we learn things the hard way. Since that heavy learning curve at Ft Irwin, I have actually done some things well, learning from others as well as Scripture. This is not an exhaustive look at the topic of authority, but I hope by the end of this workshop, you will know a little more about it and be able to apply the principles to your leadership, making course corrections as needed.

## MAKE YOUR POINT 1: **Definition of Authority** (5-7 minutes)

What is Authority? *Allow participants to call out a few answers. You may want to list their answers on a piece of chart paper or on a white board.*

Let's look at some words from the Bible (3 Hebrew, 1 Greek) which are translated "authority." There are several other words not included on this list that are also translated "authority," but this list will serve our purposes for today.

*Fill in definitions on the white board/ chart paper as you share with the group. Tie in the answers your participants gave as you discuss the biblical meanings of these words.*

- ***yad*** (yawd): **hand of power, strength, power, portion**
  (Example: *They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the **authority** of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food.* Genesis 41:35)

- ***toqeph*** (**to-**kef) : **power, strength, authority, energy**
  (Example: *So Queen Esther, daughter of Abihail, along with Mordecai the Jew, wrote with full **authority** to confirm this second letter concerning Purim.* Esther 9:29)

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- **moshel** (**mo**-shel): **dominion, rule**
  (Example: *See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the war-horses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His **rule** will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.* Zechariah 9:9-10)
- ***exousia*** (ex-oo-**see**-ah): **delegated power, means, influence, jurisdiction**
  (Example: *Which is easier: to say to the paralytic, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your mat and walk?' But that you may know that the Son of Man has **authority** on earth to forgive sins, He said to the paralytic, 'I tell you, get up, take your mat and go home.'* Mark 2:9-11)

Dictionary.com defines authority as "the power to determine, adjudicate, or otherwise settle issues or disputes; jurisdiction; the right to control, command, or determine; a power or right that is delegated."

## ENGAGE YOUR LEARNERS 1: (5-7 minutes)

So, thinking about those definitions, what is NOT authority? Turn to one or two people near you and take a couple minutes to brainstorm what authority is *not*.

> *Note to Trainer: After partners/groups have had a chance to discuss, encourage them to volunteer answers that can be added to the white board/ chart paper. The chart may look something like the one below when this section is complete. Be sure to use their answers rather than the sample ones below. When appropriate, draw contrasts with the definitions on the left.*

| **What is Authority?** | **What is Not Authority?** |
|---|---|
| **Yad**: hand of power, strength, power, portion<br><br>**Toqeph**: power, strength, energy<br><br>**Moshe**l: dominion, rule<br><br>**Exousia**: delegated power, means, influence, jurisdiction | Knowing everything<br><br>Being an extrovert<br><br>A title<br><br>Never being wrong<br><br>Being "the boss" |

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## MAKE YOUR POINT 2: **The Shelter of Authority** (10 minutes)

You are under authority. We are all under authority. Even Jesus was under authority. Everyone answers to someone.

*Explain the principal of authority being a 'shelter' using an umbrella as a visual aid.* Authority provides a type of "shelter." Think of it like this. If it's raining, there is protection under my umbrella. I can invite someone else under the covering of my umbrella and the protection is extended to them (use a volunteer to illustrate this). What happens if (so-and-so) steps out from under my umbrella? (obviously, she will get wet). There are benefits to staying underneath authority and consequences to stepping outside of it.

Spiritual authority has similarities. Let's take a look at two examples from Scripture:
*Read through each passage and work through the answers as a group.*

- I Samuel 15:17-29
    - Who was the authority?
    - Did others submit to that authority?
    - What was the result?
    - What might have happened if authority had been honored?

- I Samuel 24:1-18
    - Who was the authority?
    - Did others submit to that authority?
    - What was the result?
    - What might have happened if authority had not been honored?

## ENGAGE YOUR LEARNERS 2: (10-15 minutes)

*Have your participants work with a partner or in a small group of no more than four people. Hand out various PWOC scenarios- one per group (see appendix). Instruct the groups to discuss ways to come under authority in the situation and the benefits of coming under the authority in each scenario. Give groups the opportunity to share with the larger group. Note that more than one group can discuss the same scenario.*

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## MAKE YOUR POINT 3: **Authority in Motion** (10 minutes)

We all fall under authority and must be careful to remain in the shelter of that authority. But we all also possess God-given authority that must be exercised for the good of ourselves and others.

Let's read selections from Esther 3:8-9; 4:4-17; 5:1-8; 7:1-7; 8:3-8; 8:11
*Suggestion: Write the references on several index cards that can be handed out before the workshop begins. Have a variety of volunteers read the passages. After the passages have been read, hold a whole-group discussion. Do your best to draw thoughts out of your participants so that this becomes a genuine discussion rather than quick one-word answers.*

- Under whose authority did Esther fall? Who else? Anyone else?
- How did Esther defer to the authority of the king?
- How did she exercise her own authority?
    - Think about how she approached the king- how was she dressed?
    - How did she bring the topic up to the king? Why did she not just state the issue and cast the blame in the first place?
- What would have happened if Esther had not exercised her authority?

Likely you are not in a life-or-death situation, but yet you have God-given authority that has the potential to affect outcomes in the lives that are under the shelter of your spiritual umbrella- your family, your friends, your team members. Authority as a title is meaningless until it is put into motion.

## ENGAGE YOUR LEARNERS 3: (5 minutes)

Think of the people in your life over whom God has granted you authority. Are you exercising that authority? How can God-given authority be put into motion? If the word "authority" still seems foreign to you, substitute the word "influence." In what relationships, what friendships, what roles, has God given you influence?

Consider the following thoughts:

- **Luke 10:17** says that the demons were subject to the apostles in Jesus' name. Is that also true in your life? Do you have jurisdiction there? Could you?

- **Romans 6:22** says we have been set free from sin; it is a defeated foe. Do we allow sin to rule in our lives? Is God calling us to stand in a place of authority? What about with others?

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- **Acts 3:6** says that Peter spoke healing in the name of Jesus and the lame man walked. Could God also use you to bring healing to others? What about spiritual healing?

The common thread is Jesus. It is HIS name, HIS authority, HIS power. We can become conduits of Who He is to a world that very much needs Him. The people in my world, under my God-given authority, in my sphere of influence, can experience the beautiful shelter that can come through my submission to His authority. I can be proactive in extending that gift of shelter to others.

What is God calling you to do? Who in your life especially needs your shelter? Pause for a moment to pray about it.

## APPLY IT TO LIFE: (5 minutes)

Look back through your notes. Take a few minutes and write down one point that stood out to you and a way you will exercise your authority differently as a result of what you have learned.

Anybody willing to share with the larger group?

Pray. Dismiss.

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# APPENDIX

**Scenario 1:**
*Julie serves as the 1VP/Spiritual Life for her local PWOC. The PWOC Chaplain insists on personally approving each Bible study that will be offered in the Fall Semester.*

Who is Julie's authority? Who else is Julie's authority? How can Julie come under authority? What might be the benefit/result of doing so? What could be the problems if she does not choose to come under authority?

**Scenario 2:**
*Jenny is on the retreat planning team. It is her job to plan the menu for the weekend and fill out a purchase order request for all of the food, which the Retreat Coordinator says will be purchased from the Commissary. Jenny thinks the meals should be catered so ladies can just relax and enjoy the weekend, without having to prepare meals.*

Who is Jenny's authority? Who else? How can Jenny come under authority? What might be the benefit/result of doing so? What could be the problems if she does not choose to come under authority?

**Scenario 3:**
*Sandy serves as the Outreach Coordinator on her local PWOC board. She has a vision to do an outreach project that would involve knocking on every single door on the installation and sharing the gospel. Becky, the PWOC President, will not allow this project, stating that it is not part of her vision for this PWOC year. Sandy thinks Becky is missing the boat.*

Who is Sandy's authority? Who else? How could Sandy come under authority? What might be the benefit/result of doing so? What could be the problems if she does not choose to come under authority? Could there be repercussions to the Chaplaincy? How?

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What is Authority?

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  (Example: *They should collect all the food of these good years that are coming and store up the grain under the* ***authority*** *of Pharaoh, to be kept in the cities for food.* Genesis 41:35)

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  (Example: *So Queen Esther, daughter of Abihail, along with Mordecai the Jew, wrote with full* ***authority*** *to confirm this second letter concerning Purim.* Esther 9:29)

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- **moshel** (**mo**-shel):

  (Example: *See, your king comes to you, righteous and having salvation, gentle and riding on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey. I will take away the chariots from Ephraim and the war-horses from Jerusalem, and the battle bow will be broken. He will proclaim peace to the nations. His **rule** will extend from sea to sea and from the River to the ends of the earth.* Zechariah 9:9-10)

- ***exousia*** (ex-oo-**see**-ah):

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## ENGAGE YOUR LEARNERS 1:

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**What is NOT Authority?**

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## PWOC SCENARIOS:

*Work with a partner or in a small group of no more than four people. Read the scenario together. Discuss ways to come under authority in the situation and the benefits of coming under the authority in each scenario. You will have the opportunity to share with the larger group.*

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# III. AUTHORITY IN MOTION

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- Selections from Esther 3:8-9; 4:4-17; 5:1-8; 7:1-7; 8:3-8; 8:11

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## THINK ABOUT IT:

Think of the people in your life over whom God has granted you authority. Are you exercising that authority? How can God-given authority be put into motion? If the word "authority" still seems foreign to you, substitute the word "influence." In what relationships, what friendships, what roles, has God given you influence?

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## APPLY IT TO LIFE:

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Pray. Dismiss.

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