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# LIFE TEEN PARENT LETTER

*Check out our Parent Life website at [ltparentlife.com](http://ltparentlife.com) for resources on how to guide your teen in a faith-filled way through modern day culture!*

## LIFE NIGHT: GOD IN THE UPRISING

### CONTENT OVERVIEW

We all seek control to different degrees. We may set up a calendar to keep track of our household's plans, we may place apps on our teens' phones to track where they are or what they are doing online, and we may work hard to gain a sought after promotion at work. However, some situations cause us to experience moments of vulnerability where we feel as though all control has been stripped from us. These moments help us recognize that all those systems of power we have put in place are fragile. This reality has been made abundantly clear during this global pandemic. The only thing that remains constant throughout this entire ordeal is the power and love of Jesus.

As the king of the universe, Jesus supersedes every other earthly authority, system, and structure. During this time of uncertainty, we can recognize the importance that leadership has on the lives of those they have been given the authority to serve. We may be increasingly frustrated by power-hungry or selfish leaders, or we may be in awe of those who put their personal gain aside to lead with integrity. When Jesus began His public ministry, He was not blind to the effects of those who misused their authority. In fact, His mission of bringing about the Kingdom of God directly confronted the selfishness of religious and government leaders of the time, causing an uprising that put Him to death. The power of Jesus did not first cause an external uprising but an interior one for each person.

This power is not forceful; rather, it is a power that liberates us and sets us free. It liberates us from the feeling of needing constant control and power, to an acceptance of God's will that is filled with humble surrender. Liberation is a choice we make, though, when that interior uprising happens: We can surrender to God's ultimate and life-giving authority over our lives or hold on to the limited and self-serving authority we want to claim. This acceptance pulls us away from sin and leads down a path of discipleship that empowers us to use our God-given authority to serve and seek justice in our home and community.

We all have different roles of authority, but one we have in common is the gift of helping shape the lives of our children. We are meant to use that authority to empower our teens to use their authority over the choices they make and the interior disposition they bring to any situation in which they find themselves. Any power that we have must be rooted in humility that is always at the service of God and those He has given us the privilege of serving. It is the times when we experience vulnerability that help us remain grounded in the reality that we are not the highest power or authority. Moreover, these times remind us that, if we responsibly and justly care for what we have authority over, God will take care of us and make everything work for our good. Looking at authority through this lens calls us to place our trust in God and not in that which we can control.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are our general feelings toward authority?
2. How is God's authority freeing?
3. How can we use our authority to seek justice for others?