



The Week Ahead...



Current Series:
The Book of Hebrews
In Fellowship Hall

Lifeinary
Theology learned and lived!
9:30am
for all ages

Current Series:
Evangelical Theology
In Youth Room

Worship Service

10:30am

- Fellowship (in Fellowship hall)
- Welcome & Announcements Ben Bovard
- Baptism Lily Joy Hadeed
- Opening Song Music Team
- Scripture Reading & Prayer James Odinyo
- Message Norman Carlisle
- Praise & Ministry Music Team
- Closing Prayer James Odinyo

**additional seating available downstairs in the Fellowship Hall*

Children's Info

Infants & Nursing Mothers -

Nursery Downstairs under Foyer

Children's Church (18mo - 6th grade) -

Check in available Upstairs Classrooms

Offering

If you would like to give an **Offering** today, please place it in one of the boxes in the **Sanctuary** with your name clearly printed on your envelope. You can also give **Online** through the church **Website** or **App**.



Sunday, May 17th

Sunday School - 9:30am in Fellowship Hall

Sunday Morning Service - 10:30am

Prayer & Praise - 6pm in Fellowship Hall

Monday, May 18th

Staff Meeting - 2pm in Pastor's Study

Tuesday, May 19th

Home Group - 7pm at The Schneck's

Wednesday, May 20th

Foundation Youth Graduation - 6:30pm in Youth Room

Thursday, May 21st

Youth For Christ - 5:30pm in Youth Room

Friday, May 22nd

No Events

Saturday, May 23rd

Home Group - 3pm at The Olivo's

Music Practice - 6pm in the Sanctuary

Romans 6:4 (NASB)

4 Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too may walk in newness of life.

Announcements


Join us the
Second **Third** Sunday
this month!

Hour of
**PRAYER
& PRAISE**

Tonight May 17th
@6:00pm
in the Fellowship Hall
51 Hillmond Street Bethlehem, PA 18018

**Scripture & Testimony
Sharing**

*"Glorify the Lord with me; let us
exalt His name together."*
~Psalm 34:3



Water Baptism

Sunday, May 24th
During the Morning Service
Sign Up in Foyer



Contact Us

Church Office Hours:

Monday to Thursday: 10am - 3pm

Church Office Phone & Email:

610-866-2000

office@lifeinchristchurch.com

DOWNLOAD OUR APP



more info at lifeinchristchurch.com



ENTER ♦ EMBRACE ♦ EMPOWER

we desire to see people..

*entering new life in Christ,
embracing life-principles of Christ, and
empowered for life service by Christ*

May 17, 2026

Elders

Pastor Norman Carlisle Lead Pastor

Rev. Mike Henderson Associate Pastor

Martin Rosario

Jamie Sumner

Enoch Whipple

Ministers:

ALL BELIEVERS

Youth Director/

Assistant to the Pastor

Tim Corbett

Deacons

James Odinyo Lead Deacon

Alexander Algard

Hannah Bovard

Micah Carlisle

Tim Corbett

Brock Nearhoof

Kriss Olivo

Discussion Guide

Date: May 17, 2026

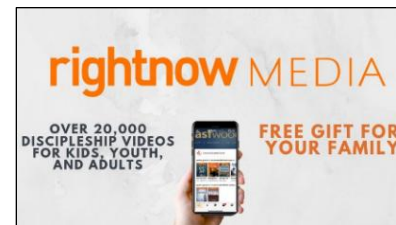
Sermon Title:

“By What Authority?”



More about Home Groups...

We encourage everyone to be a part of a small group community to deepen your relationship with Christ and His church. If you're interested in knowing more, please check the website or contact the Church Office.



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SCRIPTURE REFERENCES (NASB unless otherwise noted)

Matthew 21:14–27

14 And those who were blind and those who limped came to Him in the temple area, and He healed them. 15 But when the chief priests and the scribes saw the wonderful things that He had done, and the children who were shouting in the temple area, “Hosanna to the Son of David,” they became indignant, 16 and they said to Him, “Do You hear what these children are saying?” And Jesus said to them, “Yes. Have you never read, ‘FROM THE MOUTHS OF INFANTS AND NURSING BABIES YOU HAVE PREPARED PRAISE FOR YOURSELF?’”

17 And He left them and went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there. 18 Now in the early morning, when He was returning to the city, He became hungry. 19 And seeing a lone fig tree by the road, He came to it and found nothing on it except leaves alone; and He said to it, “No longer shall there ever be any fruit from you.” And at once the fig tree withered. 20 Seeing this, the disciples were amazed and asked, “How did the fig tree wither all at once?” 21 And Jesus answered and said to them, “Truly I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what was done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and cast into the sea,’ it will happen. 22 And whatever you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive it all.”

23 When He entered the temple area, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to Him while He was teaching, and said, “By what authority are You doing these things, and who gave You this authority?” 24 But Jesus responded and said to them, “I will also ask you one question, which, if you tell Me, I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. 25 The baptism of John was from what source: from heaven or from men?” And they began considering the implications among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ He will say to us, ‘Then why did you not believe him?’ 26 But if we say, ‘From men,’ we fear the people; for they all regard John as a prophet.” 27 And answering Jesus, they said, “We do not know.” He also said to them, “Neither am I telling you by what authority I do these things.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCES

Matthew 28:18-20 **Mark 16:16** **Acts 16:31-34**

OPENING DISCUSSION

1. What was the main thing you learned from the sermon?
2. What questions do you have about anything that was raised during the message?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What areas of your life are you more likely to assert and lean on your own authority rather than God’s authority? *Examples: financial decisions, entertainment choices, family matters, career, education*
2. Jesus brought healing to the blind and those who limped...how has Jesus helped you see truth and straightened out your walk in life?
3. The children praised Jesus probably as a result of hearing their parents and adults during the triumphal entry. How do you think you may be indirectly and unintentionally influencing children?
4. How is the fig tree an important lesson about the hypocrisy of looking as if we are fruitful when we aren’t?
5. What hypocritical things do Christians do in order to look fruitful in character or ministry?
6. How might “the temple” (your life) look different if you were more prayerful?
7. Share any thoughts, insights or questions you have about water baptism.
8. How does the question Jesus pose about baptism expose the religious leaders?
9. What can you do to invite more of God’s authority into your life?