

LESSON 1

UNDER COVER

LESSON SUMMARY

Cover is a wonderful thing. Those who are under God's cover gain access to His benefits of peace, protection, and provision. The question we should ask is, how do we stay under cover and access these benefits? Scripture gives us a clear answer: We are under cover when we are under authority.

For many people, this is where alarms start going off, because there is a big difference between the world's view and God's view of authority. In God's view of authority, there is freedom in submission, but there is bondage in disobedience, and I'll tell you why:

The kingdom of God is not a democracy. If you try to relate with God through a democratic mindset, you will not even connect with Him. He has rank, order, and authority. For those of us in a democratic society, we have to teach people what kingdom authority looks like.

All legitimate authority comes from God. Show me a person who resists authority, and I will show you a person who has not yielded to God's plan for their life. Scripture directly tells us that people in positions of authority have been placed there by God.

Now, this does not mean all people in positions of authority are godly. Their authority comes from God, but their behavior does not. However, our responsibility to honor authority doesn't change. We can choose submission and remain under cover—receiving peace, protection, and provision—or we can rebel and come out from cover, exposing ourselves to unrest, confusion, and lack.

REFLECT

- What is your best memory of being under some kind of covering or shelter? How did you feel during that moment?
- Which of God's promises for those who are under cover—peace, protection, provision—do you feel you need most right now? Why?
- What was your first response when you heard me say that submission to authority is necessary to be under cover? How is God's perspective on authority the same or different from yours?
- Why can we not relate to God with a democratic mindset?
- What stood out to you the most from my story about learning submission? What was significant about that to you?

SCRIPTURES & PRAYER

As you work through this course, I encourage you to read through each reference listed below. These verses are foundational, and God will use them to show you even more about what it means to live under cover.

- If they listen and obey God, they will be blessed with prosperity throughout their lives. All their years will be pleasant. But if they refuse to listen to Him, they will cross over the river of death. (Job 36:11-12 NLT)
- All authority comes from God, and those in positions of authority have been placed there by God. Anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and they will be punished (will bring down judgment upon themselves). (Romans 13:1-2 NLT)
- Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you. (Hebrews 13:17)

Additional Reading:

- Psalm 91:1–7

Prayer: *Lord God, thank You that I have Your promise of peace, protection, and provision when I live under Your covering. Thank You for this opportunity to learn how to live under cover. I commit myself to You throughout this process and entrust myself to Your work.*

Declarations

- No matter how leaders have treated me in the past, I can trust God's authority and will receive His promised benefits.
- The Holy Spirit helps me change the way I think about God from a democratic mindset to a kingdom mindset.
- I will treat all authorities in my life with honor, recognizing that God has given them those positions and the authority they carry has been given to them by Him.

Take Action

Make a list of the current authorities in your life. Look through your list and consider whether you have any dishonor in action or attitude toward them. If you do, repent and then write next to their name ideas of how you are going to honor them going forward.

Living Under Cover

- Submitting to God activates the benefits of His peace, provision, and protection. But rebelling against His authority opens us to unrest, confusion, and lack. Submitting to God's authority will require obedience, ultimately to Him.
- All legitimate authority comes from God. But that does not mean all

authority figures are godly. Nevertheless, their position is from God, and we submit to God by submitting to the people He's placed in authority.

- We cannot understand authority through a democratic mindset. God is our King. If we try to approach Him with a democratic mindset, we will have a hard time relating to God and His design for authority.