

Today's Reading: Mark 1:21-28

And they [Jesus and his disciples] went into Capernaum, and immediately on the Sabbath he entered the synagogue and was teaching. And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit. And he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying out with a loud voice, came out of him. And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee

Simple Summary (for Parents):

Teaching was at the heart of Jesus's ministry, and it was apparent to many who heard Him that He spoke with unusual wisdom. Unlike other teachers of His day, Jesus's teaching showed His divine authority. In today's story, Jesus also showed His authority by casting out an unclean spirit (a demon) who correctly identified Jesus as "the Holy One of God." Though many people failed to recognize Jesus rightly, Satan and his demons knew who Jesus was. Gratefully, we don't have to fear Satan because Jesus is stronger than him. What the crowd said about Jesus should still give us confidence today: "He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him."

Discuss:**1. Who is the wisest person you've ever heard of? Who is the strongest?**

(Allow your children to be creative by suggesting superheroes, historical characters, fictional characters, athletes, etc. Tell them that in today's story we're going to see that Jesus is wiser and stronger than anyone.)

2. People were amazed when they heard Jesus teach. Why would it have been better to hear Jesus than other teachers in that day?

(Because Jesus is the Son of God, He always teaches what is true and right. He is perfectly wise, so we should always listen and obey His teaching.)

3. Unlike the people in today's story, we cannot see Jesus with our eyes. So how can we hear His teaching today?

(Today we hear Jesus's teaching in the Bible. When we read God's Word or hear it taught and preached, we are hearing the perfect wisdom of Jesus.)

4. Jesus commanded an evil spirit to come out of a man and the spirit obeyed. What does this teach us about the power of Jesus?

(Although Satan is real and stronger than we are, Jesus has authority over Satan and his demons. Remind your children that Jesus possesses all power because He is the Son of God.)

5. How can today's story help followers of Jesus not be afraid of Satan? What should we do when we are afraid?

(Knowing how strong Jesus is should keep us from being worried or afraid. Remind your children that Jesus defeated Satan by dying on the cross and then rising again. When we are fearful, we should pray and ask for Jesus's help. We should also listen to what He says in the Bible.)

Pray:

Ask the Father to help you when you are afraid. Thank Him for sending Jesus, who has conquered Satan by dying on the cross and rising from the dead.

Sing:

["Jesus, Strong and Kind"](#) (See Week 1 Song Sheet for lyrics)

