

Group Study Week Four: Mark 1:21-28

Intro: Up to this point in the narrative of Mark, John the Baptist has prepared the people for the coming Messiah by preaching the need for repentance and baptism. Jesus has begun to represent His people through baptism and testing in the wilderness. He has announced the kingdom of God is at hand because He is now present. The story now progresses to the actions of the King. Will Jesus rule like the Messiah the people are expecting? Is Jesus the Messiah we are hoping for today?

Prayer

Read: Ask someone to read Mark 1:21-28

Summarize: Have two group members who didn't summarize last week share how they would summarize the passage in their own words.

Discussion Questions:

1. *Who is the strongest or most authoritative person you have ever been around? How did you interact with them? How did it make you feel? Scared? Safe? Trustworthy? Insecure? Explain.*
2. *Jesus opens his mouth in the synagogue and immediately everyone notices He teaches with a greater authority than anyone else. Share a time or passage where the authority of Jesus' teaching has astonished you. Why did it astonish you?*
3. *What teaching(s) of Jesus are a challenge for you to follow? What makes them a challenge?*
4. *Reread verses 23-27. Demons? Mark is plunging us into a world that is more than what meets the eye and uncomfortable for many of us. It is a world that is unnatural for us to think about. How does Jesus engaging demons affect how you understand the reality of the world?*
5. *The demon says in verse 24, "...Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy one of God." A right knowledge of Christ and His authority does not necessarily mean a right relationship. Why do you think the demon can have the correct understanding of Christ but still be an enemy of His?*
6. *It is important for us to notice how Jesus first uses his power and authority. He uses it to redeem, heal, and set people free. Think back on your life and share places where you have seen Christ's power set you free from past bondage to sin, or to the cares of this world.*

N.T. Further Reading:

Luke 4:31-37; Matt 7:28-29; Acts 10:38; Gal. 5:1

O.T. Further Reading:

Isaiah 61:1, Psalm 6 (Psalm praying for the Lord deliverance)

Further Study: As you read write out any words in this passage that would be helpful for you to look up in a dictionary.

Response Questions:

Personal: Discuss one area in your life where you would like to grow in trusting Christ's authority. Discuss how you as a group can graciously keep each other accountable to living under the authority of Christ.

Church: Discuss ways your group members can grow in speaking truth in love (Christ's authoritative words) to the building up of our church body this week.

World: Discuss one way you as a group can grow in living as witnesses to Christ for the spread of His fame this week. (See vs. 28)

Pray Together**Notes:****Scripture Memorization:**

Mark 1:11 (For each chapter of Mark there will be one verse to meditate on)