

Session 1

The Gospel of Mark

In chapter 1-7 Mark asks the question: Who is Jesus?

In chapter 9-16 Mark asks the question: Who does Jesus say he is?

In chapter 8 Mark focuses on Jesus asking the question: Who do you say I am?

The Big Series Question: If you were Jesus, how would you convince people in the first century that you were God?

Passage: Mark 4:35-41

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." Leaving the crowd behind, they took him along, just as he was, in the boat. There were also other boats with him. A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. Jesus was in the stern, sleeping on a cushion. The disciples woke him and said to him, "Teacher, don't you care if we drown?" He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey him!"

Main Tweet: Jesus proves that he has authority over nature just by speaking to the wind and waves and they obey his voice.

Mini Tweets: (1) Fear vs Faith (the disciples fear overrides their faith and confidence in Jesus. (2) Stormy response towards God - BLAME: "God, don't you care?"

Join the Conversation Questions:

1. What did you like about the story?
2. What did you not like or find confusing?
3. What did this passage teach you about God?
4. What did this passage tell you about people?
5. What one things from this passage can you live out in the next week?
6. Who will you tell about what you learned?

Prayer

Session 2

Passage: Mark 5:1-20

They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the iron on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones. When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God's name don't torture me!" For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you impure spirit!" Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area. A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. The demon begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." He gave them permission, and the impure spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned. Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man – and told about the pigs as well.

Main Tweet: Jesus proves that he has authority over evil - even the demons have obey his words.

Mini Tweets: (1) Fear vs Faith - the people were afraid of Jesus' power and asked him to leave – they did not have faith. (2) The Devil and his demons know that Jesus had power and authority!

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Prayer

Session 3

Passage: Mark 5:24-34

Jesus went with him, and all the people followed, crowding around him. A woman in the crowd had suffered for twelve years with constant bleeding. She had suffered a great deal from many doctors, and over the years she had spent everything she had to pay them, but she had gotten no better. In fact, she had gotten worse. She had heard about Jesus, so she came up behind him through the crowd and touched his robe. For she thought to herself, "If I can just touch his robe, I will be healed." Immediately the bleeding stopped, and she could feel in her body that she had been healed of her terrible condition. Jesus realized at once that healing power had gone out from him, so he turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my robe?" His disciples said to him, "Look at this crowd pressing around you. How can you ask, 'Who touched me?'" But he kept on looking around to see who had done it. Then the frightened woman, trembling at the realization of what had happened to her, came and fell to her knees in front of him and told him what she had done. And he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace. Your suffering is over."

Main Tweet: Jesus proves that he has authority over disease and afflictions.

Mini Tweets: (1) Superstitious Faith (The woman has mixed faith with a bit of mystical superstition. "If I could just touch his cloak..." The power to heal is not in the clothing but in the person wearing the clothing. (2) The Touch - Jesus knows the difference between someone casually brushing up against him and one truly seeking a touch of faith.

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Session 4

Passage: Mark 5:35-43

While he was still speaking to her, messengers arrived from the home of Jairus, the leader of the synagogue. They told him, "Your daughter is dead. There's no use troubling the Teacher now." But Jesus overheard them and said to Jairus, "Don't be afraid. Just have faith." Then Jesus stopped the crowd and wouldn't let anyone go with him except Peter, James, and John (the brother of James). When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw much commotion and weeping and wailing. He went inside and asked, "Why all this commotion and weeping? The child isn't dead; she's only asleep." The crowd laughed at him. But he made them all leave, and he took the girl's father and mother and his three disciples into the room where the girl was lying. Holding her hand, he said to her, "Talitha koum," which means "Little girl, get up!" And the girl, who was twelve years old, immediately stood up and walked around! They were overwhelmed and totally amazed. Jesus gave them strict orders not to tell anyone what had happened, and then he told them to give her something to eat.

Main Tweet: Jesus has the power and authority over death.

Mini Tweets: (1) Fear vs Faith (Jesus tells the Synagogue leader not to be afraid but to believe. (2) Mourners laugh at Jesus' words (they think he hasn't grasped the situation).

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Session 5

Passage: Mark 2:1-12

When Jesus returned to Capernaum several days later, the news spread quickly that he was back home. Soon the house where he was staying was so packed with visitors that there was no more room, even outside the door. While he was preaching God's word to them, four men arrived carrying a paralyzed man on a mat. They couldn't bring him to Jesus because of the crowd, so they dug a hole through the roof above his head. Then they lowered the man on his mat, right down in front of Jesus. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralyzed man, "My child, your sins are forgiven." But some of the teachers of religious law who were sitting there thought to themselves, "What is he saying? This is blasphemy! Only God can forgive sins!" Jesus knew immediately what they were thinking, so he asked them, "Why do you question this in your hearts? Is it easier to say to the paralyzed man 'Your sins are forgiven,' or 'Stand up, pick up your mat, and walk'? So I will prove to you that the Son of Man has the authority on earth to forgive sins." Then Jesus turned to the paralyzed man and said, "Stand up, pick up your mat, and go home!" And the man jumped up, grabbed his mat, and walked out through the stunned onlookers. They were all amazed and praised God, exclaiming, "We've never seen anything like this before!"

Main Tweet: Jesus has authority over sin. God's primary concern is the condition of our heart and soul.

Mini Tweets: (1) Jesus was aware of the man's physical paralysis, but addressed his greatest need of spiritual paralysis...SIN. (2) God's greatest concern for us is the condition of our heart and soul. (3) Just as the man was powerless over his physical condition, so too was he hopeless over his spiritual condition.

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Prayer

Session 6

Passage: Mark 1:21-28

Jesus and his companions went to the town of Capernaum. When the Sabbath day came, he went into the synagogue and began to teach. The people were amazed at his teaching, for he taught with real authority—quite unlike the teachers of religious law. Suddenly, a man in the synagogue who was possessed by an evil spirit began shouting, "Why are you interfering with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" Jesus cut him short. "Be quiet! Come out of the man," he ordered. At that, the evil spirit screamed, threw the man into a convulsion, and then came out of him. Amazement gripped the audience, and they began to discuss what had happened. "What sort of new teaching is this?" they asked excitedly. "It has such authority! Even evil spirits obey his orders!" The news about Jesus spread quickly throughout the entire region of Galilee.

Main Tweet: Jesus teaches with authority.

Mini-Tweets: (1) Jesus' style of teaching and storytelling carried much more weight with the people than other Rabbi's of the day. (2) Jesus had the power to drive out the evil spirit from the man.

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Session 7

Passage: Mark 6:45-52

Immediately after this, Jesus insisted that his disciples get back into the boat and head across the lake to Bethsaida, while he sent the people home. After telling everyone good-bye, he went up into the hills by himself to pray. Late that night, the disciples were in their boat in the middle of the lake, and Jesus was alone on land. He saw that they were in serious trouble, rowing hard and struggling against the wind and waves. About three o'clock in the morning Jesus came toward them, walking on the water. He intended to go past them, but when they saw him walking on the water, they cried out in terror, thinking he was a ghost. They were all terrified when they saw him. But Jesus spoke to them at once. "Don't be afraid," he said. "Take courage! I am here!" Then he climbed into the boat, and the wind stopped. They were totally amazed, for they still didn't understand the significance of the miracle of the loaves. Their hearts were too hard to take it in.

Main Passage Tweet: Jesus has the authority over our situation

Mini Tweets: (1) Jesus keeps watch over us at all times, and especially in our moments of temptation and difficulty. (2) Jesus assures us that we have no need of fear if we trust in Him and in his great love for us. (3) "Perfect love casts out fear" (1 John 4:18).

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Session 8

Passage: Mark 8:1-10

About this time another large crowd had gathered, and the people ran out of food again. Jesus called his disciples and told them, "I feel sorry for these people. They have been here with me for three days, and they have nothing left to eat. If I send them home hungry, they will faint along the way. For some of them have come a long distance." His disciples replied, "How are we supposed to find enough food to feed them out here in the wilderness?" Jesus asked, "How much bread do you have?" "Seven loaves," they replied. So Jesus told all the people to sit down on the ground. Then he took the seven loaves, thanked God for them, and broke them into pieces. He gave them to his disciples, who distributed the bread to the crowd. A few small fish were found, too, so Jesus also blessed these and told the disciples to distribute them. They ate as much as they wanted. Afterward, the disciples picked up seven large baskets of leftover food. There were about 4,000 people in the crowd that day, and Jesus sent them home after they had eaten. Immediately after this, he got into a boat with his disciples and crossed over to the region of Dalmanutha.

Main Passage Tweet: Jesus has the power and authority to create

Mini Tweets: (1) Jesus can and will take the little that we have (faith) and multiply for others good and his glory. (2) Jesus is able to truly SATISFY and give us all that we need.

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Session 9

Passage: Mark 8:22-26

When they arrived at Bethsaida, some people brought a blind man to Jesus, and they begged him to touch the man and heal him. Jesus took the blind man by the hand and led him out of the village. Then, spitting on the man's eyes, he laid his hands on him and asked, "Can you see anything now?" The man looked around. "Yes," he said, "I see people, but I can't see them very clearly. They look like trees walking around." Then Jesus placed his hands on the man's eyes again, and his eyes were opened. His sight was completely restored, and he could see everything clearly. Jesus sent him away, saying, "Don't go back into the village on your way home."

Main Tweet: Jesus has the power and authority to restore

Mini Tweets: (1) Jesus understood the fears and hopes of this blind man who begged him to touch him. (2) His sight is restored as he responds to Jesus' healing touch. (3) Allow the Lord to touch you with his grace and power that you may walk in the light of his truth and love.

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Prayer

Session 10

Passage: Mark 8:27-33

Jesus and his disciples left Galilee and went up to the villages near Caesarea Philippi. As they were walking along, he asked them, "Who do people say I am?" "Well," they replied, "some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say you are one of the other prophets." Then he asked them, "But who do you say I am?" Peter replied, "You are the Messiah." But Jesus warned them not to tell anyone about him. Then Jesus began to tell them that the Son of Man must suffer many terrible things and be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but three days later he would rise from the dead. As he talked about this openly with his disciples, Peter took him aside and began to reprimand him for saying such things. Jesus turned around and looked at his disciples, then reprimanded Peter. "Get away from me, Satan!" he said. "You are seeing things merely from a human point of view, not from God's."

Main Tweet: Jesus is the Son of God

Mini Tweets: (1) Everything we have is an out-right gift from God. (2) God gives without measure. (3) Jesus is truly the Christ. (4) Jesus broke the powers of sin and death and won for us our salvation. (5) The cross of Christ leads to victory and freedom from sin and death.

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