

INTRODUCTION

SCRIPTURE

Mark 4:35-5:43

Bottom Line:

1. Jesus demonstrates his sovereign _____ over:

a. The _____ world. (4:35-41)

b. The _____ world. (5:1-20)

c. _____. (5:24-34)

d. _____. (5:21-23, 35-43)

2. There's no reason not to trust Jesus because:

a. Jesus is greater than any _____ that may shatter human life.

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2. There's no reason not to trust Jesus because:

a. Jesus is greater than any _____ that may shatter human life.

b. Those most _____ to receiving Jesus' power in their lives, are those who _____ their own desperate need of it.

c. In times of crisis, Jesus reveals _____ and builds our _____.

3. Application:

Jesus can be trusted, _____!
In times of crisis, don't just _____ to Jesus,
_____ Him.

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Community Group Curriculum
For the week of February 9, 2014
"Power of the Kingdom"
Mark 4:34-5:43

BIG PICTURE

Jesus continued to perform many signs and wonders. As Jesus commanded the wind and the waves, drove out demons, and healed the sick, he began to claim divine authority. At the same time, he preached a "Kingdom of God" unlike anything foreseen by his fellow Jews. Jesus carried the gospel of God's salvation beyond the bounds of Israel and into Gentile territory. By doing so, he demonstrated that God's kingdom would not be confined to one race or nation, but rather was extended to all who would turn from their sins and place their trust in Jesus.

LET'S DIG IN!

1. Read Mark 4:35-41

Contrast Jesus' behavior during the storm with that of his disciples (v. 38).

The disciples are disturbed that Jesus seemed unconcerned about their drowning fate. Once Jesus calms the storm, however, they are still terrified. How does their fear after the storm differ from their previous fear? How can the disciples see the miracles of Jesus up close and hear him teach, yet be surprised that he could still the storm?

Mark 4:41 indicates that the disciples learned something new about Jesus' power after he has calmed the storm. What did they learn (see Job 28:23-28; Psalm 33:6-9, 107:25-30)? Name one new truth you learned about Jesus and write down how you can apply it to your life.

2. Read Mark 5:1-20

When asked his name by Jesus, the demon answers, "Legion, for we are many" (v. 9). A "legion" was the largest unit of the Roman army, numbering up to 6,000 soldiers. Evidently this was an unusually strong demon, or group of demons, that had taken hold of this man. What is Mark communicating to us about the mission and authority through this account?

Why were the demons so terrified of Jesus (v. 7)? Why do you think the Gerasene people were afraid of Jesus? How do you think you might have reacted under similar circumstances? Why did he tell the man he could not come with him?

3. Read Mark 5:21-34

Have you ever struggled with sin, an addiction or felt too unworthy to approach Jesus? What does Jesus' attentive care for this woman reveal about who he is? How do we understand Jesus' agenda in light of the fact that healing this woman delays his visit to a young girl on death's doorstep?

In Mark 5:33 we learn of the fear this woman felt. Why do you think the woman was afraid to admit that she had touched Jesus? Does his reply to her (v. 34) give comfort to you? How? Share your thoughts with your group.

4. Read Mark 5:35-43

This is Mark's first account of Jesus raising someone from the dead. Why does Jesus command the girl's parents and his companions not to tell anyone about this miracle, whereas he told the demon-possessed man in 5:19 to tell everyone about his healing?

What new things do the disciples learn about the power of Jesus? What do the stories in Mark 4:35-5:43 have in common?

5. Summary: In each story there is a relationship between fear and faith. What is the relationship between fear and faith in your life? What keeps you from turning your fears into faith? How can we turn our fears into faith?

Do you have fears that stop you from sharing the gospel with others? Share with the group and ask God's help to overcome any fear with faith!

PRAYER PLEASE

Pray daily with our church body during the "40 Days of Prayer" commitment. This week the focus is on "thanksgiving." Here are a few passages to consider: Psalm 95:2-3, 1 Corinthians 1:4-5, 2 Corinthians 4:15-16, 1 Timothy 4:4-5, 1 Chronicles 16:34.

KEY DEFINITIONS

Gerasenes – An inhabitant of the ancient Palestinian town Gerasa.

Decapolis – the Decapolis ("Ten Cities") was a group of ten cities on the eastern frontier of the Roman Empire in Jordan and Syria. The ten cities were not an official league or political unit, but they were grouped together because of their language, culture, location and political status, with each possessing a certain degree of autonomy and self-rule. The Decapolis cities were centers of Greek and Roman culture in a region that was otherwise Semitic. Most of the cities were located in modern-day Jordan.