

GNCOMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

SERMON SERIES: "THE GOSPEL OF MARK"

SERMON TITLE: "POWERFUL & POSSIBLE"

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WARM UP QUESTIONS:

- 🗨️ Can any of you share a story of a time in your life when you felt completely powerless, and then ended up experiencing God do something supernatural in your life and situation?
- 🗨️ Is self-reliance something you think our society struggles with, or even celebrates? How do you see self-reliance play out in our culture and in your life?
- 🗨️ When you face a difficulty in life, are you quick to pray and ask God for His supernatural help, or are you too busy trying to problem solve how YOU are going to fix the problem? Why do you think we are many times so slow to ask God for His help?
- 🗨️ Do you live a life of faith in such a way that it causes you to be reminded of your need for God? Why or why not?
- 🗨️ Do you honestly believe that God is able and powerful enough to do ANYTHING that He desires to?

◆ Feel free to read a few selected passages or all of the passages listed below. Each section of scripture has it's own discussion questions to go along with it:

JESUS CALMS THE STORM

Mark 4:35-41 — "35 That day when evening came, Jesus said to His disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." 36 Leaving the crowd behind, they took Him along, just as He was, in the boat. There were also other boats with Him. 37 A furious squall came up, and the waves broke over the boat, so that it was nearly swamped. 38 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?" 39 Jesus got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, "Quiet! Be still!" Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. 40 He said to His disciples, "Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?" 41 They were terrified and asked each other, "Who is this? Even the wind and the waves obey Him!"

- 🗨️ What can we learn from the fact that Jesus was peacefully sleeping in the boat while the storm was raging around them?
- 🗨️ What goes through your mind when you read the section where the disciples woke Jesus and said to Him, “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?” (v. 38b). Can you relate with that general feeling towards God? If so, how?
- 🗨️ How much effort did it take Jesus to calm the storm? How much power would you personally have had over the storm? Why do you think we convince ourselves that we have more power over things in this life than we really do?

JESUS RESTORES A DEMON-POSSESSED MAN

Mark 5:2-10 “**2** When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet Him. **3** This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. **4** For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. **5** Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones. **6** When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of Him. **7** 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!” **8** For Jesus had said to him, “Come out of this man, you impure spirit!” **9** Then Jesus asked him, “What is your name?” “My name is Legion,” he replied, “for we are many.” **10** And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area.”

- 🗨️ What was the demon’s reaction and demeanor towards Jesus? What should that show us and teach us?
- 🗨️ {Likely a personal reflection question} What are the things in your life that either need supernaturally bound by Jesus, or cast out for good by Jesus?

JESUS RAISES A DEAD GIRL AND HEALS A SICK WOMAN

Mark 5:22-43 “**22** Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at His feet. **23** He pleaded earnestly with Jesus, “My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.” **24** So Jesus went with him. A large crowd followed and pressed around Him. **25** And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. **26** She had suffered a great deal under the care of

many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. **27** When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind Him in the crowd and touched His cloak, **28** because she thought, “If I just touch His clothes, I will be healed.” **29** Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. **30** At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?” **31** “You see the people crowding against you,” his disciples answered, “and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’” **32** But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. **33** Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. **34** Jesus said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.” **35** While Jesus was still speaking, some people came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue leader. “Your daughter is dead,” they said. “Why bother the teacher anymore?” **36** Overhearing what they said, Jesus told him, “Don’t be afraid; just believe.” **37** He did not let anyone follow Him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. **38** When they came to the home of the synagogue leader, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. **39** He went in and said to them, “Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.” **40** But they laughed at Him. After He put them all out, He took the child’s father and mother and the disciples who were with Him, and went in where the child was. **41** He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha koum!” (which means “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”). **42** Immediately the girl stood up and began to walk around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. **43** He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.”

🗨️ What does Jesus’ lack of urgency or concern for the situation of the 12 year old girl dying tell us about Jesus’ perspective on life, death, and trials? How should our perspective change in light of Jesus’ perspective and mindset?

🗨️ {Likely a personal reflection question} The woman who had the bleeding waited 12 years for this moment of healing, not knowing for most of that time when or if she would ever find relief and healing. Who do you know in your life that has needed the supernatural power of Jesus in their life, and just doesn’t know that what they are looking for is found only in Jesus?

🗨️ Have you ever had to wait for a significantly prolonged period of time for God's supernatural healing/answers/provision? What did you learn during that waiting period? How grateful were you when it finally came?

SERMON IN A SENTENCE:

"Surrendering to the One who is ALL powerful allows the impossible to become possible."

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 "7 Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong."

🗨️ Do you think of your weaknesses in this way? Why or why not?

🗨️ What does the Apostle Paul's attitude and mindset teach us about how our attitude should be?

Mark 10:27 "27 Jesus looked at them and said, "With man this is impossible, but not with God; all things are possible with God."

🗨️ Do you believe the words of Jesus in Mark 10:27? How is your belief of this evident in your life and actions?

☀️ What do you need to surrender to Jesus, admitting your powerlessness, and asking Jesus to do what only He is powerful enough to do? Also, who will you invite to join you in that prayer to help encourage you in that area of your heart and walk with Jesus?

🙏 Close in prayer.

MATCHING THEME IDEAS FOR THE KIDS LESSON:

- Ask the kids how powerful Jesus is.
- Ask the kids, “What is God not powerful enough to do?”
- Ask the kids if they can name powerful things that God has done.
- Figure out a task that is impossible for kids to do (almost tricking them at first), and then when they admit that they can't do it and ask for help, you can do it for them. Talk to them after this about how this represents prayer and how we need to ask God for His supernatural help in our lives, regardless of big or small challenges.
- Read/Tell them the stories of Jesus calming the storm, or Jesus casting out the demons, or Jesus raising the young girl from the dead, or when Jesus healed the lady who had been bleeding for 12 years. Get them excited about what all Jesus is able to do!
- Ask them if they have any things in their life that they need Jesus' help with, and then pray for the requests of the group.
- I'd encourage a worship time if possible (youtube works great).
- And feel free to ask any of the kids if they'd like to say a prayer for the group.