

## Connection Group Discussion Questions

For the week of April 24, 2016

Mark 1:21-39

*These questions are to be used as a spring board for discussion.*

*Answers may or may not be found in the sermons.*

### **New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)**

<sup>21</sup> They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught. <sup>22</sup> They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. <sup>23</sup> Just then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, <sup>24</sup> 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." <sup>25</sup> But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" <sup>26</sup> And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. <sup>27</sup> They were all amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." <sup>28</sup> At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

<sup>29</sup> As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. <sup>30</sup> Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. <sup>31</sup> He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

<sup>32</sup> That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. <sup>33</sup> And the whole city was gathered around the door. <sup>34</sup> And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

<sup>35</sup> In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. <sup>36</sup> And Simon and his companions hunted for him.

<sup>37</sup> When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." <sup>38</sup> He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do." <sup>39</sup> And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

### **Common English Bible (CEB)**

<sup>21</sup> Jesus and his followers went into Capernaum. Immediately on the Sabbath Jesus entered the synagogue and started teaching. <sup>22</sup> The people were amazed by his teaching, for he was teaching them with authority, not like the legal experts.

<sup>23</sup> Suddenly, there in the synagogue, a person with an evil spirit screamed,

<sup>24</sup> “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are. You are the holy one from God.”

<sup>25</sup> “Silence!” Jesus said, speaking harshly to the demon. “Come out of him!” <sup>26</sup> The unclean spirit shook him and screamed, then it came out.

<sup>27</sup> Everyone was shaken and questioned among themselves, “What’s this? A new teaching with authority! He even commands unclean spirits and they obey him!”

<sup>28</sup> Right away the news about him spread throughout the entire region of Galilee.

<sup>29</sup> After leaving the synagogue, Jesus, James, and John went home with Simon and Andrew. <sup>30</sup> Simon’s mother-in-law was in bed, sick with a fever, and they told Jesus about her at once. <sup>31</sup> He went to her, took her by the hand, and raised her up. The fever left her, and she served them.

<sup>32</sup> That evening, at sunset, people brought to Jesus those who were sick or demon-possessed. <sup>33</sup> The whole town gathered near the door. <sup>34</sup> He healed many who were sick with all kinds of diseases, and he threw out many demons. But he didn’t let the demons speak, because they recognized him.

<sup>35</sup> Early in the morning, well before sunrise, Jesus rose and went to a deserted place where he could be alone in prayer. <sup>36</sup> Simon and those with him tracked him down. <sup>37</sup> When they found him, they told him, “Everyone’s looking for you!”

<sup>38</sup> He replied, “Let’s head in the other direction, to the nearby villages, so that I can preach there too. That’s why I’ve come.” <sup>39</sup> He traveled throughout Galilee, preaching in their synagogues and throwing out demons.

### **Connection Questions:**

1. Many people want to have a mature faith, often talking and planning for ways to make it happen, but can get bogged down in making it happen. Why do you think this happens?



6. Staying in Capernaum was a good idea because the people were accepting of his message, but Jesus said after praying, “We must go into all of Galilee to share the message.” What could be the difference between a good idea and a God idea?
  
7. The text says, “Jesus got up early in the morning and got away from the disciples to pray in solitude.” Why is solitude a good routine to incorporate into our daily living? How can you incorporate it into your week?
  
8. John Maxwell says he disciplines himself to build into every person he spends at least 30 seconds with to find a way to uplift that person. He calls that the “30 second rule.” How does this foster a servanthood lifestyle?
  
9. Dr. Joel Eikes at the University of Louisville says, “Our mode of life itself, the way we live [in America], is emerging as today’s principal cause of illness.” Discuss.