

Unexpected Power

August 30, 2020



Reading/Group Discussion

Begin with prayer

As you begin your gathering, designate someone to pray that the Holy Spirit would lead and guide your time together. Before they do so, spend a few moments together in prayerful silence. Then, after a few seconds of quiet and centering, have the specified person pray for the group.

Read this overview

During this 13-week series, we are going to be opening up the book of Mark together to study the life of Jesus—The Unexpected King. During this series, we will gain a better understanding of who Jesus is and what it really means to be his disciple.

This past weekend Dan preached on Mark 4:35-5:43.

Scripture + Discussion

The goal of your discussion this week is to explore how Jesus has authority over nature, evil, sickness, and death.

Take turns reading all the way through **Mark 4:35-5:43**. Then, use the questions below to guide your discussion.

Here are a few questions to guide this time:

- How did this sermon/passage challenge you? What resonated? What deepened your faith?
- In this sermon, Dan spoke of the demon-possessed man in **Mark 5:1-20**, highlighting the fact Satan brings about isolation, violence, and death in people's lives. Which of these three tactics resonates with you most? Why?
- What is an area in your life you tend to not fully disclose to others? Do you find yourself isolating from others? Explain why you think you tend to shirk back from sharing that information with trusted people in your life.

- In his sermon, Dan referenced the demon-possessed man engaging in self-harm as further evidence of Satan's desire to use violence against people of God. What might be some ways you have been violent toward yourself or toward others (i.e. overly self-critical, tearing others down with your words, neglecting rest)? Explain.
- What is your view on spiritual warfare (see **Psalm 91:1-4; Isaiah 41:10; John 10:10; Ephesians 6:11-17; Ephesians 6:12; 2 Corinthians 10:3-5; 1 Peter 5:8-9; James 4:7**)? In what ways might your answers to the first four questions be side-effects of the spiritual battles you are in?
- The demon-possessed man experienced freedom because of Jesus. As a result, he was sent back to his own people to proclaim what Jesus had done. Just as Dan talked a few weeks ago about "wrecking the roof" to bring people to Jesus, here he points out that Jesus is calling us to "go home to your own people." As you think about that challenge, who comes to mind when you think about who "your own people" are? How are you planning to come alongside them and share the difference Jesus is making in your life?
- In what ways does this sermon/passage expand your view of the person of Jesus? In what areas were you challenged in your discipleship to him?
- What is one practical next step you are going to pursue as a result of this sermon or this discussion?

Accountability

Take some time again this week to split your group into smaller or gendered groups and share your answers to the questions below. Be sure to follow up on anything that was shared last week.

- What has your time in God's word and prayer been like this week?
- What have you learned from Jesus this week?
- Have you consistently reflected the love of Christ to those in your life this week (such as your spouse, children, or co-workers)?
- Where have you wrestled with temptation this week?
- What sins do you need to confess right now?
- Have you been 100% honest?

Finish with prayer

You might designate someone in your group to write down everyone's prayer requests and then send them to the whole group for everyone to be praying about this week.

- What is on your heart that you need prayer for?
- Who in your life needs prayer?

Have someone close your time together by interceding for the requests that were shared.