

SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

WEEK 10

Jesus demonstrates His authority

Luke 8:22–39



DAY 1

Jesus possesses divine power and love • Luke 8:22–25

READ

Luke 8:22–39

EXPLAIN

The truth of Luke 8:22–25

There is so much wrong with this world—what kind of man is able to bring peace in the midst of such chaos? Only the great power and love of God. In this week’s story, Jesus shows us that He has this power and love. He can bring peace because He is in fact God in human flesh (Col 2:9). Jesus’ decision to cross the Sea of Galilee with His disciples reveals that He has both the love and power of God. First, it reveals His love. For the first time, Jesus was going into Gentile territory. “The other side of the lake” means the east side, Decapolis, an area of ten Gentile cities. By going to the Gentiles, Jesus fulfilled God’s promise that the Messiah would come to offer salvation to all people, both Jew (clean) and Gentile (unclean) (Luke 2:32; Isa 49:6). Second, Jesus’ decision reveals His power. He was in control. It was Jesus who led His disciples through the storm. And it was Jesus who led His disciples into Gentile lands, even when at least some of His followers did not want to go (Matt 8:18, 21).

ASK

1. Whose choice was it to sail that night?
Jesus’.
2. Where were Jesus and His disciples going?
To the other side of the lake. To the Gentiles.
3. What did this reveal about Jesus?
His divine love. He was going to offer salvation to all people, both Jew (clean) and Gentile (unclean).
4. What else did it reveal about Jesus?
His divine power: Jesus calmed the storm.

DISCUSS

1. Will more money or education or equality bring peace to this world? Why not (Rom 5:1; 8:19–23)?
2. Is it easier to see the power and love of Jesus in the good times or the bad times?

DAY 2

Jesus' power over the natural world • Luke 8:22–24

READ

Luke 8:22–39

EXPLAIN

The truth of Luke 8:22–24

The storm that night was a terrible storm. The waves were so fierce that Matthew described his experience that night as a “water-quake” (Matt 8:24). The Sea of Galilee is smaller than other lakes, but the wind that swoops down from the surrounding ridges causes waves much bigger than other larger lakes. This particular storm was so fierce that the disciples, some of whom were experienced fisherman, thought they were going to die. Yet Jesus was fast asleep, worn out by a full day of teaching and healing. His tiredness reminds us that He really was human. But then, after His disciples woke Him up, Jesus showed that He was also much more than a man. With incredible power, He calmed the chaotic wind and waves, bringing instant peace. In so doing, He fulfilled Psalm 107:28–29: “Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress. He made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed.” God alone is strong enough to rule the raging sea (Ps 89:8–9), yet Jesus did so by His own power and authority.

ASK

1. What happened as Jesus and His disciples crossed the sea?
A violent windstorm suddenly swept over them.
2. Why were the disciples afraid?
A huge storm was sinking their boat.
3. What was Jesus doing during the storm?
Sleeping.
4. What did Jesus do after His disciples woke Him up?
He spoke and calmed the storm right away.

DISCUSS

1. Have you ever witnessed a violent thunderstorm? What if you saw a man stop that storm just by speaking?
2. When your life gets hard, do you complain, or do you let God use it to show you how great He is?

DAY 3

Jesus' love for the faithless disciples • Luke 8:25

READ

Luke 8:22–39

EXPLAIN

The truth of Luke 8:25

Why did Jesus rebuke the disciples' lack of faith (Luke 8:25; Mark 4:40)? What should the disciples have believed? First, they should have remembered that God was the one who set boundaries for the sea (Gen 1:10), who parted the Red Sea and the Jordan River (Exod 14:21; Josh 3), who rescued Jonah from the storm He had created (Jonah 1), and who alone rules as King over the waters (Ps 29:10; 65:7). Jesus

remembered all this, so He trusted the Father so much that He slept in peace (4:8) while the disciples shouted in panic. Second, the disciples did not have faith in Jesus, even though they had seen Him perform many miracles. They asked Him to save them (Matt 8:25), but deep down they expected to die (Luke 8:24). They also doubted Jesus' love, saying, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” (Mark 4:38). But then, when the storm stopped, the disciples were even more afraid! Why so much fear? When they saw Jesus calm the storm, they realized they were in a boat with someone who was even more powerful than a great storm.

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. Why did Jesus rebuke the disciples?
They did not have faith.
2. How was Jesus able to sleep during the storm?
He slept because He trusted God, the One who rules over the wind and the waves.
3. Why were the disciples afraid after Jesus calmed the storm?
They realized they were in the presence of One whose power was even greater than the storm.

DISCUSS 

1. Even though the Bible tells you who Jesus is, do you still sometimes have trouble trusting Jesus? Why is this?
2. What should we do when trouble arises (1 Pet 5:7)? Why?

DAY 4*Jesus' power over the supernatural world • Luke 8:26–33***READ** 

Luke 8:22–39

EXPLAIN **The truth of Luke 8:26–33**

The storm proved Jesus has power of nature, but does He have power over the invisible world too? He does, and He proves it when two demon possessed men rush up to Him (Matt 8:28). Luke mentions just one, probably because he was the leader of the two. These men were filled with demons—the word “legion” describes a military unit that included up to 6,000 men. These demons controlled the man, causing great physical harm (Mark 5:5; Matt 8:28). Yet the demons cowered in fear before Jesus because they knew who Jesus was. They knew that not even their leader, Satan himself, could stand against the power of God the Son (Ps 2:7, 12; Matt 3:17–4:11). But they also knew that Jesus would judge them at His second coming, not at His first (Rev 20:10). So they begged not to be locked up in the abyss, a temporary prison where some demons are locked up until the tribulation (2 Pet 2:4; Jude 6; Rev 9:1–2, 11). In response, Jesus used them to cause a herd of pigs to rush down the steep bank and drown in the lake below.

ASK 

1. What was wrong with the man who lived among the tombs?
Many demons were living in him.
2. Why did the demons cower in fear before Jesus?
They knew who Jesus was: Son of the Most High God.
3. What did the demons beg Jesus not to do?
To torment them in the abyss.
4. What did Jesus do?
He made the demons go out and completely healed the man.

DISCUSS 

1. How did the demons demonstrate Jesus' power and authority?
2. Demons are unclean spirits. How does Jesus' love for the unclean, demon-possessed man give you hope that you can know His love too?

DAY 5

Jesus' love for the fearful townspeople • Luke 8:34–39

READ

Luke 8:22–39

EXPLAIN

The truth of Luke 8:34–39

You would think the people would be thankful that Jesus had got rid of the destructive demons! Instead, they asked Jesus to leave! The people, like the disciples, feared Jesus, because they realized that someone even more powerful than a legion of demons was standing before them. But unlike the disciples, they rejected Jesus. His power threatened their way of life. But Jesus did not give up on them. Instead, He sent them a missionary, one who had experienced Jesus' miraculous power and supernatural love. This man was so transformed that he spread the news of Jesus not just in his hometown but in all the region of Decapolis. Why was he willing to give up his desire to be with Jesus in order to obey Jesus' mission? Because he realized who Jesus is. When Jesus told him to go and tell how much God had done for him, the man responded by going and telling how much Jesus had done for him. This man was changed because he knew Jesus was in fact God in human flesh, the only One powerful and loving enough to bring peace to his stormy life.

ASK

1. After the storm and the demons, what was the result?
Peace. Jesus is the Prince of Peace, who came to make peace on earth.
2. Why did the townspeople fear Jesus?
They realized that someone even more powerful than a legion of demons was standing before them.
3. What did the healed man do after Jesus left?
He eagerly obeyed Jesus and told about Jesus in all of the Decapolis.
4. What did the healed man realize about Jesus?
He realized the point of both miracles: Jesus is God, with God's power and God's love.

DISCUSS

1. Is there such a thing as a healthy fear of God? What does this look like (Luke 8:39; Isa 6:5; Luke 5:8)?
2. What about an unhealthy fear of God? What does this look like (Luke 8:37; Rom 8:15)?

NEXT WEEK

Jesus has power over
disease and death

Mark 5:21–43

