

# The Authority of Jesus | Family Worship Guide

Mark 1:21-34



**MAIN IDEA:** Jesus' followers may be confident in the authority of their master's teaching.

## **PREPARATION:**

Ask your kids if they have any friends/peers who think of themselves as know-it-alls. These are people who think they are the final authority on every subject. Growing up this person was my older cousin. This might be true for everyone!

Now ask them what qualifies someone to instruct others in any particular subject. Education? Experience? Authorization from a higher authority?

## **EXPLANATION:**

One of the great ironies of our time is that we supposedly live in "the information age," an age in which information is quickly and widely disseminated and easily accessible through the use of computer technology. What makes this such a great irony is that despite an abundance of information, we are now, more than ever before, less confident in the information we receive. And this lack of confidence is not without basis. Bogus information regarding any number of subjects is being pumped into the information pool at a much higher rate than it can be sifted out. And with so much unreliable information floating around, it has become increasingly difficult to discern where to place our confidence. In an age when anyone, regardless of their subject knowledge, has a platform to speak about anything they like, how are we to evaluate whether or not their words are to be taken seriously? their promises to be trusted? their warnings to be heeded? or their commands to be obeyed? This is a question of authority. And although Mark's original audience did not live in the information age, they too were concerned with whether or not they could be confident in the things they heard, especially as it pertained to Jesus and his ministry.

Mark presents Jesus as one who teaches with authority. Jesus kicks off his Galilean ministry with a proclamation, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." (v. 15), an announcement that is followed by the call of four fishermen (Simon, Andrew, James and John) to come and be his disciples (vv. 16-20). Their first ministry experience with Jesus is accompanying him on the Sabbath to the synagogue to hear him teach. It was customary for traveling teachers to be given an opportunity to expound upon the Scripture reading assigned for that day. Those in the synagogue who heard Jesus' teaching suspected that his words carried more weight than those of the teachers they were accustomed to hearing, a suspicion that was confirmed after witnessing Jesus exercise an unclean spirit from a man. Mark says everyone there – Jesus' chosen four not excluded – were awestruck and began questioning the nature and origin of Jesus' teaching. From where/whom did he receive his authority?

What's noteworthy and also worth emulating is the disciples' response to Jesus' ministry. For immediately after leaving the synagogue they bring Jesus to Simon's mother-in-law with the expectation that he will heal her as well. Their response blooms from amazement to expectation. And Jesus does not disappoint! He not only heals Peter's mother-in-law and others who need his help but also gives his disciples tangible evidence that their following one whose life and ministry has been anointed by God. Be confident! Jesus' office – Messiah and Son of God – has been directly conferred upon him by God, the Father Almighty, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." His word is the final authority in all things!

## CONVERSATION:

- What promises has Jesus made to his followers that you need to believe? What commands do you need to obey? What warnings do you need to heed?
- What misinformation about God, others, or yourself have you wrongly believed and has held you back from living out God's best intentions for your life?

## APPLICATION:

- Knowing that Jesus has the final word over all things, bring someone you know who is physically, emotionally, or spiritually sick to his attention in prayer.
- Ask God how he's calling you to be the hands and feet of Jesus. You may not be able to heal someone with a word, but you are capable of bringing them a word of encouragement.

## SUPPLICATION:

Lord Jesus, we thank you for silencing the voice of the enemy and for bringing us a life-giving word from above. We ask that you would be merciful and gracious to us in granting us genuine repentance and faith. For the sake of your kingdom, fill us with your Holy Spirit and empower us to continue your ministry of spreading the good news of God and healing those who are sick and hurting. Amen.

## EXULTATION:

[Impossible Things](#), Chris Tomlin (featuring Danny Gokey)

You heal the broken hearted  
You set the captive free  
You lift the heavy burden  
And even now, You are lifting me

There is no healer  
Like the Lord our maker  
There is no equal to the King of kings, oh-ohhh  
Our God is with us, we will fear no evil  
'Cause You do, Impossible things  
'Cause You do, Impossible things

Though I walk through the valley  
Darkness surrounding me  
There You prepare a table, hmm-hmm  
In the presence of my enemies, yeah-eh

There is no healer  
Like the Lord our maker  
There is no equal to the King of kings, oh-ohhh  
Our God is with us, we will fear no evil  
'Cause You do, Impossible things  
Yeah, You do, the Impossible Impossible

One Word, and the walls start falling  
One Word, and the blind will see  
One Word, and the sinner's forgiven  
'Cause You do Impossible (Impossible things)  
And one Word, and the walls start falling (oh start falling)  
One Word, and the blind will see (and the blind will see)

One Word, and the sinner's forgiven (oh sinner's forgiven)  
'Cause You do (wooh) Impossible things (oh Impossible things)

There is no healer  
Like the Lord our maker  
There is no equal to the King of kings, oh-ohhh  
Our God is with us, we will fear no evil (I will fear no evil)  
'Cause You do Impossible things (Impossible things, yeahh)  
There is no healer  
Like the Lord our maker (the Lord our maker)  
There is no equal to the King of kings (King of kings)  
Our God is with us, we will fear no evil (oh-ohhh)  
'Cause You do Impossible things (Impossible things)  
'Cause You do Impossible things

You do more than I could ask  
Or even imagine (walls are falling)  
You are, more than I could ask  
You're more than enough (You do, You do Impossible)  
Impossible  
Hmmm-yeah-ehh-eh-ehhhh

You heal the broken hearted (hmm-hmmm)  
You set the captive free (set us free, yeah)  
You lift the heavy burden (oh-oh oh-ohhhh)  
And even now, You are lifting me  
Yes, even now, You are lifting me (lifting me)  
Oh and even now, You are lifting me (lifting me ohhh)  
'Cause You do Impossible things