Series: Starting Line-Gospel of Mark Message: Power and Problems

January 22, 2012

Jesus has the power over...

**Danger** Mark 4:35-41

**Demons** Mark 5:1-20

**Disease and Death** Mark 5: 21-43

## The problem of unbelief

The unbelief of His **Acquaintances** Mark 6:1-6

The unbelief of His **Enemies** Mark 6:7-29

The unbelief of His **Disciples** Mark 6:30-56

## **NEXT STEPS**

Use these study questions to turn a message into a conversation.

# Food for thought

#### Mark

The theme of "don't be afraid, just believe" permeates these passages in Mark 4 & 5, this is a whole lot easier to read than to put into practice when you are in the midst of fearful times. In these passages we find a number of different people in desperate straits. Their experiences with Jesus can help us to trust him with the fearful areas of our own lives.

Fear can be a very powerful emotion. What kinds of fear keep you from doing some things you think you should?

Read Mark 4:35-41 In the first incident the disciples are quite naturally afraid of the storm and disturbed that Jesus seems not to be concerned about their drowning. Once Jesus calms the storm, however, they are still terrified. How does their fear after the storm differ from their previous fears?

Read Mark 5:1-20

Many people find it hard to understand why Jesus allowed the demons to destroy the pigs. It could have been to prevent a violent exit from the man or to show him visibly that he was now free. Even if we can't pin down exactly why Jesus allowed this, what does the fate of the pigs show about what the demons were trying to do to the man?

What does this show about the value Jesus places on the man?

In Mark 5:21–43 two stories are woven together—that of Jairus's daughter and the woman with a hemorrhage. What sorts of fears are involved in these two incidents?

The word *fear* doesn't appear in the account of Jesus' return to his hometown, yet a kind of fear is evident here as well. What are the people afraid of?

Which of the different kinds of fear that have been described in these incidents might we label as *good* fears and which as *bad?* 

What are the relationships between fear and faith in each of these incidents?

What keeps you from turning your fears into faith?

## Sign up today for a Life Group!

Our Life Groups help promote spiritual growth and maturity in the Real Life community through the development of significant Christian relationships centered on the study of God's word. (Hebrews 10:24-25 & Romans 8:29)

SHARING Each week we'll take time to share what is happening in our lives. At first this sharing will include some planned "sharing questions". But after the first few weeks, it will become more informal and personal as our group feels safer and more comfortable.

STUDY Each week we'll study a portion of God's word that relates to the previous weekend's sermon. Our goal is to learn how to apply and live out our Christianity in our day-to-day experiences and relationships.

SUPPORT Each week we'll learn how to take care of one another as Christ commanded (see John 15:9-13). This care will take many forms such as prayer, listening, meeting needs, encouraging and even challenging one another as needed.

We also have ongoing Bible Studies available at Real Life: See the calendar at www.seekreallife.com for details.