

## 11. Jesus the Teacher and Preacher (Mark 1:21–28; Mark 1:35–39)

### Introduction:

Our stories today tell us about Jesus' teaching and preaching. Preaching is persuasive speaking, usually done in public. Each Sunday in church services, pastors usually preach for about 15 to 30 minutes; for this reason, pastors are often called preachers. Jesus was famous as a teacher and preacher, and even today many people who are not followers of Jesus have great respect for his teaching.

### Warm up:

Teachers are important in helping us to learn all kinds of things. Divide into pairs and share with your partner a story about your favourite teacher.

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Make a list of all the qualities and the kind of character traits that you would like to find in an ideal teacher. We will write these on the white board.

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Today's story is also about evil spirits or demons. In your country, do people believe in spirits or evil spirits? If so, tell the class a story about spirits or evil spirits.

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1. Some important words in the stories:

**Disciples:** Followers of Jesus

**Sabbath:** Saturday, the holy day for Jews

**Synagogue:** A Jewish religious building, like a Christian church building

**Teachers of the law:** Jewish religious leaders and teachers who taught from the Old Testament, which is the first part of the Christian Bible

**Evil spirits or demons:** Supernatural beings who are bad or evil

**Authority:** Jesus' teaching was very special because he sounded like he had special knowledge and truth and this was very powerful

**Companions:** Friends

2. Read the story in *Mark 1:21–28*. [Page 82]

3. Were there any English words or phrases that you did not understand?

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- 4. The people were amazed at Jesus' teaching. Read verse 22 and explain to your partner in your own English why they were amazed at Jesus' teaching.

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- 5. Why was the evil spirit concerned about Jesus? Who did the evil spirit think that Jesus was? See verses 23–26. Share your answers with your partner.

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- 6. Our story takes place at the beginning of Jesus' public service, and so the people were just getting to know Jesus. Read verses 27 and 28. If you were in the crowd that day, and heard Jesus' teaching, and saw him drive out the evil spirit, and this was all you knew about Jesus, how might you have felt? Use the first person to explain your feelings to your partner, for example: "I might have felt (interested)".

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- 7. Read the story in *Mark 1:35-39*.

- 8. Were there any English words or phrases that you did not understand?

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- 9. Why did Jesus say he had come (verse 38)?

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- 10. Take turns to retell the story to your partner using your own English.

- 11. Share with your partner any of Jesus' teachings that you know or remember.

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