

# Jesus Demonstrates His Authority

Mark 1:21-28



## Worship Theme:

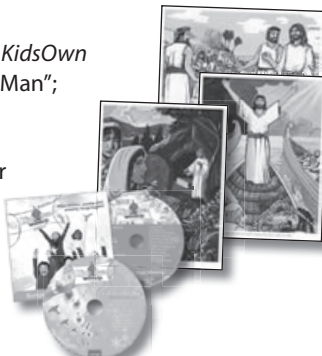


Jesus has awesome power.

## Weaving Faith Into Life:



Children will praise Jesus for the power of his love.

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
<b>1</b> Let's Praise God! (up to 25 minutes)	<b>Sing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "The Power!" (track 7)</li> <li>• "Miracles Happen Every Day" (track 24)</li> <li>• "King Jesus Is All" (track 14)</li> <li>• "God So Loved the World" (John 3:16) (track 11)</li> </ul>	<b>KidsOwn Worship Kit:</b> <i>Songs From FaithWeaver; KidsOwn Worship DVD: "Awesome Man";</i> Posters 1-3 <b>Classroom Supplies:</b> TV, DVD player, CD player 

## Preschool

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
<b>2</b> Let's Learn the Point! (up to 25 minutes)	<b>Yea, Jesus!</b> Hear a story about Jesus' power.	<b>Classroom Supplies:</b> Bible
	<b>* Keep Away</b> Play a game about being left out.	<b>Classroom Supplies:</b> Bible, paper wads
	<b>Awesome Power</b> Sing a song about how strong Jesus' love is.	

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
<b>2</b> Let's Learn the Point! <i>(up to 25 minutes)</i>	<b>Help for the Helpless</b> Try to control their hair being blown by a hair dryer, and listen to the story.	<b>Classroom Supplies:</b> Bible, hair dryer
	<b>* Spread the News</b> Compare powerful things to Jesus' power.	<b>Classroom Supplies:</b> Paper, markers
	<b>* The Power of Love</b> Do an experiment about power with a rope and brooms.	<b>Classroom Supplies:</b> Bibles, jump-rope, 2 brooms

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
<b>3</b> Let's Pray! <i>(up to 10 minutes)</i>	<b>The Offering</b> Thank Jesus for his power to help them.	<b>Classroom Supplies:</b> Offering bowls
	<b>Power Prayers</b> Make muscles as they say a power prayer.	<b>Classroom Supplies:</b> Bibles
	<b>"The Power!"</b> Sing a song to close their worship time.	<b>KidsOwn Worship Kit:</b> <i>Songs From FaithWeaver: "The Power!"</i> (track 7) <b>Classroom Supplies:</b> CD player



\* Starred activities can be used successfully with preschool and elementary children together.

Customize your session to fit your needs. You can separate preschoolers and elementary children for Section 2.

Or, if you keep the children all together for the entire worship session, we suggest you choose from the starred activities.

# *Jesus Demonstrates His Authority*

*Mark 1:21-28*

Mark begins this passage with a demonstration of Jesus' authority. Not just anyone was allowed to teach in the synagogues—that was usually reserved for the rabbis. Guests could teach there only at the invitation of the rabbi. And even when a local rabbi taught in the synagogue, he did so by expressing the thoughts of a more prominent rabbi. But Jesus was different. He interpreted the passage himself and did so with authority—so much authority that the people noticed how different he was from the normal teachers of the Law.

Jesus apparently was making such an impression that the demon possessing a man felt the need to create a distraction. The demon referred to himself in the plural. Apparently many demons were controlling this man.

Demons and demon possession are not often discussed in the church today. In Jesus' day, demon possession seems to have been commonly known. Perhaps it was more apparent because the demons opposed Jesus' ministry. Many believe that demons can still possess people today, actually controlling their speech and actions. Most who think that demon possession still happens feel that demon possession can be a result of dabbling with satanic rituals.

The demons in this story clearly knew who Jesus was. "The Holy One of God" is a name for the promised Messiah. So why would a demon make himself known to Jesus? The demons may have been attempting to convince people listening to Jesus that he was their cohort in some sort of decep-

tion. However, Jesus cut short the demons' discourse. Notice that there was no protest when Jesus spoke to the demons. They knew they had to obey and did it immediately.

The people present were amazed at Jesus' authority just by hearing him teach. But when demons obeyed his commands, they saw that he had the power to back up his authority. Jesus wasn't just an articulate, convincing speaker; he was the all-powerful Son of God. And when people left the synagogue that day, they began telling everyone in the whole region who Jesus was. After this event, Jesus could no longer go anywhere in the region of Galilee without being recognized and surrounded by people wanting to be healed by his miracle-producing power.

## ***Devotion for Leaders***

Jesus' power goes far beyond what we can comprehend. Yet we can understand the worth of Jesus' friendship to us. The all-powerful Jesus is our forever friend!

**Weaving Faith Into Your Life:** We may not understand the demon possession that is described in this passage, but we stand amazed at Jesus' power. There is no one with greater power than our Lord Jesus. Do you comprehend the magnitude of Jesus' power? Consider the world around you, and know that your friend Jesus created it in the beginning and is in control of it today.

## Why We Worship for Leaders

The many miracles Jesus performed while here on earth all demonstrate his awesome power. He cast out evil spirits; calmed storms; and healed the sick, lame, and blind. He conquered death and opened the gates of heaven to us. But *what* he did is not as amazing as *why* he did it. The driving force behind all of Jesus' actions was—and is—love. Use this worship session to help children see that the power of Jesus is not folklore to be dusted off every Sunday or compared to superheroes from TV and movies. Jesus' power is real and relevant, offered freely in love. If you can help children recognize the enormity and power of Jesus' love for them, you will set them on a path of voluntary praise and worship that will last the rest of their lives.

## Easy Prep for Leaders

**Let's Praise God!**—Set up a TV and DVD player. Set the *KidsOwn Worship DVD* to the segment titled "Awesome Man." Watch the segment at least once before the children arrive.

**Preschool Activities**—Refer to the preschool pages for preparations.

**Web Help:** Get bonus leader tips and ideas at [kidsownworship.com!](http://kidsownworship.com!)



## 1 Let's Praise God!

Play *Songs From FaithWeaver, Winter 2011-2012* as children arrive. As you greet each child by name, say, "Today we'll be talking about power. Let me see how strong you are. Make a muscle!" Feel each child's muscle as he or she enters the worship area. You may want to choose two children to serve as greeters for the day.

**Say**

**Hello, everyone! I'm glad you're here! Today we're praising Jesus because he has awesome power. Let's talk for a minute about what power really is. When you came in, you were asked to show off your muscles. People with big muscles are usually strong and powerful, aren't they?**

**Some of us have big muscles, and some of us have smaller muscles. But no matter what size muscles we have, we could never be as powerful as Jesus. That's because Jesus has awesome power!**

**I want you to think about some of the powerful things Jesus has done. The Bible is *full* of stories that show Jesus' power! I'm going to show you a few pictures. See if you can tell me which Bible stories the pictures portray. Here's a clue: Each of these Bible stories tells us something about Jesus' power. To make guessing easier, form a group with the three people sitting closest to you. Pause as kids form groups.**

**When you think your group knows which Bible story a picture shows, choose someone in your group to come up to the front of the room to tell your answer. Choose a different person to come forward for each picture. Are you ready? Here's Powerful Picture 1!**



Hold up the “Jesus Feeds 5,000” picture (Poster 1) from the KidsOwn Worship Kit. Give kids about a minute to discuss their answers. When groups’ representatives have come forward, let them share their answers. Then have kids return to their seats.

**Say** This picture shows the story of Jesus feeding the five thousand. Remember what happened in that story? There was a huge crowd of people, and there were only five loaves of bread and two little fish to feed them. But Jesus blessed the food, and then there was enough to feed everyone. And there were even leftovers! What awesome power! Let’s sing “The Power!”

Sing “The Power!”



Track 7

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Say** Let’s sing another song about God’s awesome power. Let’s stand and sing “Miracles Happen Every Day.”

Sing “Miracles Happen Every Day.”



Track 24

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

When the song is over, have the children sit down.

**Say** Jesus really *can* do anything. Let’s look at a another picture that shows his power.

Hold up the “Jesus Calms the Storm” picture (Poster 2), and give children a minute to think. Then let representatives share their answers.

**Say** Here’s more evidence of Jesus’ awesome power. This picture tells about a time a terrible storm came up when Jesus and his disciples were sailing on the sea. Jesus told the wind and the waves to be still, and the storm stopped. No one has power like Jesus! Let’s praise Jesus by standing and singing praises to him.

Sing “King Jesus Is All.”



Track 14

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

When the song is over, have the children sit down.

**Say** This week’s Bible story tells us of another time Jesus showed his awesome power. Jesus was teaching in church one day when a man began to make a lot of noise. This man yelled and didn’t seem to be able to stop himself. But all Jesus had to do was speak, and suddenly the man was able to calm down. No one has power like Jesus!

You know, TV and movies are full of people who say they have lots of power. Let’s meet one of those people right now.

Show the DVD segment titled “Awesome Man.” This segment shows a TV journalist interviewing a superhero about his amazing deeds. The journalist compares the superhero to Jesus and allows children to conclude that no one’s power matches Jesus’ power.

**Say** Jesus is the only *real* superhero there is. Jesus has such awesome power. He really *is* God! And because he's God, there's one more awesome power that only Jesus has. Look at this last Powerful Picture, and see if you can figure out what that power is.

Hold up the "Jesus Is Alive" picture (Poster 3), and give children a minute to come up with the Bible story demonstrating Jesus' power.

**Say** The empty tomb in this picture shows Jesus' most awesome power. Jesus has the power to save us. When we believe in Jesus, we can live forever with him in heaven. Jesus could have used his awesome power any way he wanted to, but he chose to die on the cross for our sins. And when he rose from the dead, just as this empty tomb shows, he opened the door to heaven for us. Let's sing "God So Loved the World" to thank Jesus for using his awesome power to save us. Please stand, and let's sing to Jesus!

Sing "God So Loved the World" (John 3:16).



Track 11

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

**Pray** Jesus, you have such awesome power! You can walk on water, calm storms, and heal people when they're sick. But most of all, you have the power to save us from our sins. Only you have the power to get us into heaven. Thank you so much for loving us enough to die for us. Thank you so much for opening the door to heaven for us. And thank you so much for using your awesome power to show us how much you love us. Help us remember your love every day of our lives. Amen.

## 2 Let's Learn the Point!

### *Preschool Activities, pages 119-120*

At this time, have the preschool leader invite the preschoolers to go to their own room for this section of activities. Tear out the Preschool Activities page, and give it to the preschool leader. Have the preschool leader bring the preschoolers back to participate in Let's Pray! with the older children. If you prefer to keep all the children together, do the starred (\*) activities. They will work well with both elementary and preschool children.

### *Elementary Activities*

#### *Help for the Helpless*

Open your Bible to the book of Mark. Plug in an electric hair dryer.

**Say** The book of Mark gives us a glimpse into how powerful Jesus really is. In Mark 1:21-28, we can read about a man Jesus helped. This man had an evil spirit that he couldn't control.

**Say** The man yelled at Jesus and didn't seem to be able to stop. I imagine it might have been something like this.

**When I point the hair dryer at you, try to keep your hair from moving. But you can't use your hands or move your head. You just have to concentrate really hard and tell your hair not to move. Are you ready? Concentrate!**

Go from child to child and use the hair dryer to blow their hair. If possible, circulate around the room and blow everyone's hair.

- Ask**
- **Were you able to hold your hair still? Why or why not?** (No, it's impossible to control my hair; yes, I have a lot of gel in my hair.)
  - **How did you feel when you weren't able to control your hair?** (I felt useless; it felt hopeless; I felt powerless.)
  - **How might being unable to control your hair be like the man who was controlled by the evil spirit?** (He had no power over the evil spirit, just like I had no power over my hair; the air was controlling my hair, like the evil spirit was controlling the man.)

**Say** In this Bible story, no one could control the man's evil spirit—not even the man himself. But all Jesus had to do was speak to the spirit, and the spirit instantly left the man. *That's* the kind of awesome power Jesus has! The people were so amazed that news of Jesus' power spread quickly all over the region. Let's spread some news of Jesus' power ourselves.

### \* *Spread the News*

Have kids form groups of two or three, and give each group a sheet of paper and a marker. Make sure younger children are grouped with older children. If you have adults who can help lead discussions, you can have kids form larger groups.

**Say** In this activity, we're going to spread the news to each other about what awesome power Jesus has. In your group, think of the 10 most powerful things you know of. Then choose someone in your group to write those powerful things on paper. For example, you might think of tornadoes or huge waves or even bad guys with guns.

Give groups a few minutes to write their lists. Then invite volunteers to read their lists for the rest of the group.

**Say** Now I have a challenge for you. Look at your list and see if you listed anything that's as powerful as Jesus. I know for a fact that Jesus is more powerful than anything we can think of because Jesus has the most awesome power there is! For each item on your list, think of how Jesus is more powerful than that item. For example, if you wrote "huge waves," then think of the Bible story about Jesus calming the waves and stopping a storm. Jesus can control nature. Even if you thought of a bad guy with a gun,

(continued on page 121)



# Jesus Demonstrates His Authority

Mark 1:21-28

## Worship Theme:



*Jesus has awesome power.*

## Easy Prep for Leaders

**Keep Away**—Prepare one paper wad or gather one foam ball for every three children.

## Using Theo

Consider using Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet today in these ways:

- Have Theo lead the preschoolers from the main worship area to the preschool room.
- Have Theo join in the “Keep Away” activity, either by joining a trio himself or by roving around the room and visiting each trio.
- See the KidsOwn Worship Kit for a puppet skit created to tie in to this week’s worship session.



## Yea, Jesus!

Gather children around you, and open your Bible to the book of Mark.

**Say** There’s a story in the Bible about a time Jesus was teaching in church. Let’s all sit up straight and fold our hands in our laps as if we were sitting in “grown-up church.” (Pause.)

As Jesus taught the people, a man with a bad spirit started yelling at Jesus. The people in church must have been very surprised to hear that yelling. Maybe they told the man to hush. Let’s say “shh!” as they might have done.

Lead children in a long “shh!”

**Say** Jesus used his awesome power to help the man. All Jesus had to do was say, “Be quiet!” and the bad spirit obeyed Jesus and left the man. The people in the church were amazed at Jesus’ power. Let’s cheer for Jesus’ power!

Lead children in clapping and cheering, “Yea, Jesus!”

- Ask**
- Why do you suppose Jesus helped the man even though the man was yelling at him?
  - Has Jesus ever helped you? What happened?

**Say** Jesus loved the man even when the man was doing bad things—even when the man was yelling. And Jesus loves us even when we do bad things. Jesus wants to use his awesome power to help everyone because he loves us all. Let me read to you a Bible verse that tells how strong Jesus’ love is.



## \* Keep Away

You'll need a Bible and the paper wads or foam balls you prepared before the session.

Read Romans 8:38-39 aloud.

**Say** The Bible says that nothing can separate us from Jesus' love. That means that nothing is big enough or strong enough to keep us away from Jesus. Jesus loves us so much that he won't let anything get in the way. Let's play a game to help us understand how strong Jesus' love is.

Have children form trios, and give each trio a paper wad or foam ball. (Explain that children can pretend the paper wad is a ball.) In a game of Keep Away, have two children in each group toss the "ball" back and forth to keep it away from the third child. After several minutes, have children switch roles so the third child has a chance to throw the ball, too. Then have children switch roles once more so that everyone has had a chance to be in the middle.

Have children sit in their trios as you ask the following questions. After each question, invite volunteers to share their answers with the rest of the class.

- Ask**
- What was it like to be in the middle in this game?
  - How did you feel when the other players were keeping the ball away from you?

**Say** It was no fun feeling left out in this game, was it? But we never have to worry about being left out of Jesus' love. The Bible says that nothing—

absolutely nothing—can keep the love of Jesus away from us. Jesus loves us so much that he'll never let anything get in the way of his love. He'll never let anything keep us away from him. Isn't that wonderful news? Let's play our game again. But this time no one will be left out, just as no one is left out of Jesus' love.

Have children stand in their trios again. Instead of playing Keep Away, have children toss the ball to each other as they say, "Jesus loves you" with every toss.

Collect the balls, and have children hold hands in one large circle.

**Say** Jesus has such awesome power! Let's praise Jesus. When I count to three, let's keep holding hands. We'll touch our hands to the floor and then raise our hands to the sky as we shout, "Hooray for Jesus!"

Lead the children in the cheer.

### Preschool Leader Tips

If you don't have the exact number of children to form trios, let some groups have more than three members.

For extra fun, let children see how quickly they can pass the ball. Or have children form one large circle and pass several balls at the same time.

## Awesome Power

**Say** Today we're going to learn a new song to remind us of Jesus' awesome power. Are you ready to sing?

Lead children in singing the following song to the tune of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm." Sing the song several times with the children.

**Sing** Jesus has such awesome power,  
And his love is strong!

Jesus has such awesome power,  
And his love is strong!  
Nothing in this whole wide world  
Can keep his love from his boys and girls.  
Jesus has such awesome power,  
And his love is strong!

**remember how Jesus helped the man with the evil spirit. Jesus can even control bad spirits. There's nothing his power can't control!**

Give kids a few minutes to write, and then ask volunteers to share some of their discoveries with the rest of the group.

**Say** **There's nothing more powerful than Jesus. He can heal the sick, calm storms, get rid of evil spirits, and—most important of all—save us from our sins. Jesus died on the cross for our sins. When he rose from the dead, he made it possible for us to live in heaven with him forever. No one else in the whole history of the universe could do that! What awesome power!**

**Ask**

- **Why do you think Jesus was willing to help the man with the evil spirit?** (He wanted to show that he's powerful; he loved the man; he wanted the man to believe in him.)
- **Why do you think Jesus was willing to die on the cross for us?** (He loves us; he wants us to believe in him; he wants us to have a friendship with him.)

**Say** **Jesus is willing to help us and heal us and make it possible for us to get to heaven all because of one reason: Jesus loves us. It's that simple. He loves us and wants a relationship with us. And his love is as powerful as he is! Let's do another activity that will remind us of Jesus' powerful love.**

### \* *The Power of Love*

**Say** **Jesus has power that no one else has ever had. And he uses that power to help us because he loves us. In fact, his love for us is so strong that nothing can separate us from it. Romans 8:38-39 in the Bible tells us how strong Jesus' love is. Let's read Romans 8:38-39 together.**

Provide Bibles for children who need them, and have children read together Romans 8:38-39. Consider using an overhead projector and a transparency to project the words onto a wall.

**Say** **I need three volunteers to come up and help me with an experiment.** Choose three volunteers.

Give a broom or long stick to two of the volunteers, and have those volunteers stand a few feet apart. Tie one end of a jump-rope or clothesline to the top of one of the sticks, and weave the rope back and forth around the sticks. Use the illustration in the margin as a guide. Give the loose end of the rope to the third child.

**Say** **Let's say that one of these sticks represents us and one represents Jesus. And let's say that the rope represents Jesus' love.**

Tell the child holding the loose end of the rope to pull on it while the other two children try to pull the sticks apart. The children won't be able to pull the sticks apart while the other child is pulling on the rope. After the experiment, have your volunteers sit down.

### **Extra Impact**

If you have time during "The Power of Love," let kids form trios to take turns doing the experiment. Or consider providing extra supplies so trios can try the experiment simultaneously.



**Say** No matter how hard you tried to pull the sticks apart, you couldn't. The force of the rope was much too strong. That's how it is with the love of Jesus. His love is so strong that nothing can pull us away from him. Nothing can separate us from the love of Jesus.

Jesus has awesome power, and one of his most amazing powers is that he loves us with a love that can't be broken. Bow your head right now, right where you are, and say a silent prayer of thanks to Jesus for his most awesome love.

### 3 **Let's Pray!**

#### *The Offering*

Have children stand in a large circle.

**Say** Jesus has awesome power that he uses to help us because he loves us. Think of something you need Jesus to help you with this week. When the offering bowl comes to you, offer a silent prayer to thank Jesus for having the power to help you with your situation. Collect the offering.

#### *Power Prayers*

**Say** The Bible says that nothing can separate us from the love of Jesus. Let's read Romans 8:38-39 together.

Have the children read Romans 8:38-39 together. Consider using an overhead projector and a transparency to project the words onto a wall.

**Say** Remember when you first came into children's church today and were asked to make a powerful muscle? Right now we're going to offer power prayers to Jesus. I want you to bow your heads and keep your eyes closed. (Pause.) Now think of one awesome power Jesus has. You might think of how he can heal sick people or calm mighty storms. When you've thought of a power Jesus has, make a muscle with your right arm. (Pause.)

Now think of another awesome power Jesus has. When you've thought of another power, make a muscle with your left arm. (Pause.)

Now when I count to three, raise both arms to the sky and shout, "Thank you, Jesus!"

Count to three, and lead children in thanking Jesus.

## *"The Power!"*

**Say** Today we learned that Jesus has awesome power and that he uses that power to help us because he loves us. We know that no one else has the power Jesus has. Let's close our worship time together by singing.

Sing "The Power!"

Lyrics are in the back of this book.

