

SPARK SUNDAY SCHOOL

ACTIVATE FAITH

UPPER ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION



Jesus Teaches & Heals

Lesson Focus: **Jesus Gives Evil a Time Out**

Scripture Reference: **Mark 1:21b-28**

Spark Story Bible Pg. 254

GATHER

Check In with your High & Low for today/this week.

Check-In Questions: What kinds of games do you like to play outside?

Have you ever noticed a coach yell for time out at a basketball or football game? Everything stops, and all the players huddle around the coach because the coach is in charge. The coach has authority over the players. Another time we use the word *time out* is when someone misbehaves. Did any of you have a time out chair when you were little? In today's Bible story, Jesus gives evil a time out. It's like evil has to go to the time out chair and stay there! Let's read what Jesus does.

Prayer: Dear Jesus, You are the living word. God of all knowledge, teach us.

You teach with authority. God of all knowledge, teach us. You come to us, here in this place. God of all knowledge, teach us. In your name we pray. Amen.

STORY

Look up **Mark 1:21b-28** in the **NRSV** and listen along on our website. Or turn to **page 254** in the **Spark Story Bible**. *Whenever you see/hear the words "unclean spirit" or "unclean spirits," yell, "Time out!"*

Questions to Ponder:

- What kind of spirits does he command? (*unclean*)
- Today we'll be talking a lot about Jesus giving evil a time out when he casts out unclean spirits. What do you think of when you think of evil and unclean spirits? *Give children a chance to use their language to describe how they understand evil and unclean spirits. They may have questions about the devil and demons and why evil exists. These are huge questions, and they are very important. Let the kids know that. Remind them that even though we may not understand why evil is present, we do know that God's presence is more powerful and that God's love is stronger than evil, unclean spirits, and even death.*
- What do you love about a great teacher?
- What made Jesus' teaching different than other people's teaching?
- Who are the people "in charge" in your life?
- How did Jesus show his authority or how he was "in charge"?
- Describe the people's reactions to what Jesus did.

Jesus' teaching and healing is like no other! As Jesus' followers, we get to learn from the master. It's good news to know that the one who gave evil a time out is the same one who is always with us and will always love us.

Jesus gives **evil** a **timeout**.

I wonder...

- What the difference between a clean and unclean spirit is.
- How fame spread in Jesus' day.
- Why a man with an unclean spirit was at the synagogue.

Science Stinks

I've never liked science but I've always loved my Aunt Betty the scientist. And she likes me too. She tells me I'm her favorite niece. That feels great—even if I am her only niece.

Aunt Betty is convinced someday I'll fall in love with science.

Once, she brought me to the lab where she works. I had to put on a lab coat and protective glasses. As I watched her work, we talked about some bully problems I was having on the playground at school.

"Maybe science can help," she said.

"I doubt it."

She continued mixing chemicals. A few drops of this, a few of that. I was amazed at how much she knew about this stuff. No wonder she was in charge of this lab. I didn't want to admit it but maybe just maybe I was starting to fall in love with science after all. She added one last droplet to the glass beaker.

"Here you go. This might help with those playground bullies."

As she held it toward me I gave it a whiff. "Ugh! This smells horrible."

Aunt Betty said, smiling, "It's supposed to. It's a stink bomb!"

Question:

- Have any of you done any science experiments before?

Sometimes things we study in school don't seem very interesting until we connect them to our day-to-day life.

The girl in today's story wasn't a big fan of science, but, in this story, her aunt begins to change her mind.

Read the story. If you want divide it into parts. One can read the narration, one can read the niece's lines, and one can read Aunt Betty's lines.

- How do you think Aunt Betty and Jesus are similar?
- How did Jesus use his knowledge and authority to teach and heal in today's story?



Time-Out-a-Pult

In the 4 colored boxes below write four action words that remind you of grace and being set free.

The Time-out-a-pult has three parts:

Origami box Pencil Note card

The origami box is folded using the image to the right. Start by making the origami box, & continue creating the Time-out-a-pult using the directions below.

To make box:

1. Fold, crease, and unfold lines A.
2. Fold diagonal lines B.
3. Fold and crease lines C.
4. Fold and crease lines D.
5. Unfold right and left flaps.
6. Fold top and bottom edges to meet at center crease.
7. Shape box by lifting as you fold, one corner at a time.
8. Fold both flaps inside so that all tips meet in center of box.
9. Once the box is folded, tape one end of the pencil to the bottom of it. Then make a fulcrum by tri-folding a note card and taping one side to the pencil like so:

The closer the note card is to the box, the further the projectiles will fly.



Additional instructions can be found here: <http://www.origami-instructions.com/origami-box.html> or by searching "origami box" or "origami gift box."

MEMORY VERSE

Look up **Mark 1:27b**. This is our Memory Verse for today.

An impure, evil, or demonic spirit falls into the category of **Unclean Spirits**.

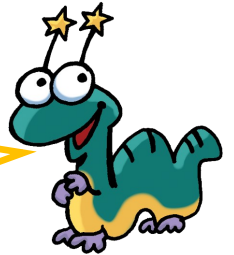
A **synagogue** is a Jewish house of prayer and learning.

Before photocopiers, mimeographs, and the Gutenberg press, there were **scribes**.

A fishing getaway on the north shore of the Sea of Galilee? Hello, **Capernaum**.

Did Mom scold you for eating ice cream for breakfast? Sounds like you've been **rebuked**.

Involuntary muscle contraction, uncontrolled movement, bodily contortions: could be medical, could be emotional, could be a **convulsion**.



SEND

Responding to God's Word

Jesus gave evil a time out, just like we just did with our Time-Out-a-Pult!

Jesus' teaching went hand-in-hand with his healing. He taught the good news and used his authority to give evil a time out, casting out the unclean spirits.

We may not be casting out unclean spirits, but we still have plenty of ways to live out what Jesus has taught us, and that can be very healing for us and for others. What a great way to spread the good news and give evil a time out forever!

These are ways God uses us to come back for others! Sometimes the best way to come back is to go out!

To: _____ From: _____ Date: _____

I want to:

- ___ Share with someone about the weirdest and coolest part of today's story.
- ___ If you were a character in the story, who would you be and why? Act out their part?
- ___ Ask an older relative to share memories of his or her favorite teachers.
- ___ Make a comic strip of the story today. There are 4 main points.
- ___ Write a poem describing Jesus' authority.
- ___ Write out the Memory Verse & doodle around it in your Faith Formation Journal
- ___ Write out the Memory Verse and place it somewhere you will see it often
- ___ Give you a big hug!
- ___ Invite you to worship with you (outside or online) or invite them to Sunday School with you
- ___ Pray for _____ My own idea: _____