

*Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

## **LOOK**

Speaking with authority requires knowledge and experience of the subject matter. The walk has to match the talk. Authority, or truth telling, may inspire faith or incite fear.

1. Who do you admire and ascribe with authority as a spiritual leader? Why?
2. Why does truth telling sometimes cause fear and opposition? What are some of the personal and social mechanisms at work?

## **BOOK** *Mark 1:21-28*

Jesus is on the move: calling, teaching, healing.

1. What words pop out at you that Mark uses for extra flourish and urgency?
2. What does it mean that even evil spirits recognize Jesus? Peter recognizes and names Jesus as the Messiah in 8:29. What is the difference?
3. What is the crowd's initial reaction to Jesus' actions? Do you remember your initial reaction to the good news of the gospel?

## **TOOK**

Some translations use the word "demon" and some use "unclean spirit". An unclean spirit causes separation and isolation in a community. Jesus is about reconciliation. In calling out evil spirits, he makes the community whole again.

1. Have you ever been held back (possessed) by a spirit of fear that isolated you from family or community? Describe that experience.
2. Is there someone who needs to see your love and hear your words of healing so they can be liberated from evil and restored to community?