

Sunday, February 1, 2015

## Epiphany 4

**The Bible:** Mark 1:21-28 (below)

### **Conversation Starter:**

- **Adult/Couple:** Who are you in today's Gospel reading: the skeptic, who questions a "new" teaching, or one of the amazed people, who responds with joy and admiration and helps to spread Jesus' fame throughout Galilee?
- **Teen Family:** Work together to make a list of people who have authority in your lives. Why do you (or don't you) respect them? Why do you suppose the people who heard Jesus teach on that day in Capernaum were surprised at his teaching?
- **Young Family:** Jesus used his power to help a troubled man. When are the times that we need God's power (angry times, confusing times, scary times)?

### **Mark 1:21-28 The Message (MSG)**

**21-22** Then they entered Capernaum. When the Sabbath arrived, Jesus lost no time in getting to the meeting place. He spent the day there teaching. They were surprised at his teaching—so forthright, so confident—not quibbling and quoting like the religion scholars.

**23-24** Suddenly, while still in the meeting place, he was interrupted by a man who was deeply disturbed and yelling out, "What business do you have here with us, Jesus? Nazarene! I know what you're up to! You're the Holy One of God, and you've come to destroy us!"

**25-26** Jesus shut him up: "Quiet! Get out of him!" The afflicting spirit threw the man into spasms, protesting loudly—and got out.

**27-28** Everyone there was incredulous, buzzing with curiosity. "What's going on here? A new teaching that does what it says? He shuts up defiling, demonic spirits and sends them packing!" News of this traveled fast and was soon all over Galilee.