

As you join this discussion, let the Holy Spirit guide you. Share your thoughts and reflect on the message. Work through the guide by reading Scripture and answering a few questions.

Open Up:

- If you could instantly have the ability to teach, heal, or inspire like Jesus, which one would you pick, and how would you use it?
- Jesus' ministry often involved meeting people in their struggles. When has someone's kindness or help made a lasting impact on you?

Read Together:

Matthew 4:23-25

Jesus went throughout Galilee, **teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness** among the people. News about him spread all over Syria, and people brought to him all who were ill with various diseases, those suffering severe pain, the **demon-possessed**, those having seizures, and the paralyzed; and he healed them. Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.

Matthew 9:1-8

Jesus stepped into a boat, crossed over and came to his own town. **Some men brought to him a paralyzed man**, lying on a mat. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the man, **"Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven."** At this, some of the teachers of the law said to themselves, "This fellow is blaspheming!"

Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said, "Why do you entertain evil thoughts in your hearts? **Which is easier: to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'?** But I want you to know that the **Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.**" So he said to the paralyzed man, **"Get up, take your mat and go home."** Then the man got up and went home. When the crowd saw this, they were filled with awe; and **they praised God, who had given such authority to man.**

Matthew 12:22-24

Then they brought him **a demon-possessed man** who was blind and mute, and **Jesus healed him**, so that he could both talk and see. All the people were astonished and said, **"Could this be the Son of David?"** But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, **"It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons."**

Matthew 12:28-29

But ***if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.*** "Or again, ***how can anyone enter a strong man's house*** and carry off his possessions ***unless he first ties up the strong man?*** Then he can plunder his house.

Romans 6:9

For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.

Discuss Together:

3. Matthew 4:23-25 summarizes Jesus' ministry. Which of the four aspects stands out most to you—teaching, preaching, healing, or casting out demons? Why?
4. Jesus' preaching focused on the Kingdom of God. How does his message compare to what people today think Christianity is about?
5. In Matthew 9:1-8, Jesus ties healing to his authority to forgive sins. Why do you think he does this, and what does it reveal about his mission?
6. Jesus' miracles were not just acts of kindness but signs of God's kingdom breaking into the world. What do you think that means for us today?
7. Jesus said the Kingdom of God is already here but not fully realized. How do you see this tension in your life or the world around you?
8. The religious leaders accused Jesus of working with Satan when he cast out demons. Why do you think they reacted this way, and how do people today still resist Jesus' authority?
9. The church is meant to be a visible picture of the gospel. How does our church reflect the Kingdom of God?
10. Jesus calls us not just to participate in church but to engage in its formation. What is one step you can take this week to help build a healthy church community actively?

Pray:

Pray for God to give you a deeper understanding of His power and authority in your life. Ask Him to help you trust in His healing, guidance, and mission and to show you how to actively engage in His Kingdom work through your church and community.