



# Nurturing Faith... Every Day in Every Way

February 1, 2015

4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany

**Deuteronomy 18:15-20**

**Psalms 111 (10)**

**1 Corinthians 8:1-13**

**Mark 1:21-28**



**Who's In Control?** *Object:* A remote control.

Do you know what this is? Sure you do. It is a remote control. Some of you may have a TV that has a remote control. When you are watching TV, you can turn the TV off or on, change channels, and adjust the volume. Do you know what? There are some remote controls that can do much more than that. I have seen some remote controls that can control up to fifteen different things -- they are called universal remote controls. If you have a DVD player, it can control that too. You can go fast forward, slow motion, reverse, or pause a movie while you go and get a snack. When you have a universal remote control, you are in complete control. That's amazing isn't it?

In our Bible lesson today, Jesus showed people his amazing control of everything around him. It was on the Sabbath day and Jesus went to the synagogue and began to teach. There was a man there who was possessed by an evil spirit. When Jesus went near him, the man cried out, "What do you want with us, Jesus? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, you are the holy one of God."

"Be quiet!" Jesus said. Then he spoke to the evil spirit, "Come out!" Do you know what happened? The evil spirit did exactly what Jesus commanded. It came out of the man.

The Bible tells us that the people were amazed. They looked at one another and asked, "What's going on here? Even evil spirits obey his orders." There was power in the words that Jesus spoke that day. On that day, Jesus came in and took control of the life of that man. His life would never be the same!

Jesus wants to be in control of your life too. He wants to be in control of the plans you make, the words you say, the things you do, and the places you go. Why? Is he a control freak? No! He wants to be in control because he wants what is best for you. The Bible tells us that God has a plan for us. It is a good plan that will give us hope and a bright future, but we will never see that plan work unless we allow Jesus to be in control.

Jesus, we want you to be in control of our life. We know that you want what is best for us and that is what we want too. Amen.

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**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia. The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light; for those who sat in the shadow of death light has dawned. Alleluia (Matt. 4:16)

## Word Search Puzzle

L W U O F Y R U E K L N B T Q  
A U T H O R I T Y O T R I D U  
O I W C D M P E J C R R N K I  
L F J W G G E E C E I D E X E  
N U A M A Z E D O P S I E F T  
S A B B A T H X S P R U Y R N  
N E V A Z Y K Y R H L S S O S  
Q Y Y K H Z X L S Q S E I V V  
S G A L I L E E H K S G I P Y  
P S Y N A G O G U E E P E O Z  
R V P O K N E W S R K Y R D H  
E I H B Q L I O O O L T D C G  
A G O E H K A H O I S L A L W  
D G L Y I Y D H V E N E R P H  
W K Y N P X S E D Q T A R B D

|           |           |         |         |         |
|-----------|-----------|---------|---------|---------|
| REGION    | SPREAD    | JESUS   | PEOPLE  | NEWS    |
| SHRIEK    | SYNAGOGUE | SHOOK   | DESTROY | AMAZED  |
| QUIET     | HOLY      | GALILEE | ORDERS  | SABBATH |
| AUTHORITY | OBEY      | EVIL    | TEACH   | SPIRIT  |

**CONTROL WALKING:** Give each child something to carry on the top of their heads, such as an egg, an empty toilet paper tube, a pencil, etc. Let children walk around the room and see who can last the longest with their "controlled walking"! Talk about today's lesson and how much CONTROL that Jesus had!

**CONTROLLED "ME":** Give children a long piece of butcher paper and the child can lay on the paper and have an outline of each child drawn on the paper. Children can color the child's clothes and draw a banner on the child's picture-shirt that will say JESUS IS IN CONTROL OF ME! Children could tape their outlines to the classroom wall!

**BIG EYE SURPRISE PICTURES:** Give children construction paper and markers to cut out BIG EYES and glue them to another piece of construction paper, with smaller circles to glue inside the BIG EYES. (Children will enjoy putting those smaller circles in different places inside the BIG EYES to make the eyes looked SURPRISED! Children can write, "PEOPLE WERE AMAZED AT JESUS' CONTROL, or WHAT POWER JESUS HAS, etc.

JESUS IS MORE POWERFUL

THAN ANYTHING!



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