

## **Dig Deeper @Home – “What Child is This?”**

### **Complement to lesson on 01/21/2014 – “Mark 7”**

#### **ICE BREAKER – Questions to open dialogue and learn more about those gathered**

1. Would you rather ski, build a snowman, have a snowball fight or stay in by the fire?
2. Share a time you were unable to keep exciting news to yourself

#### **MEMORIZE – Mark 8: 27-30**

And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they told him, “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.” And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him.

#### **READ – Read Mark 7**

##### **Questions to ponder/discuss:**

1. Re-scan the text and consider...
  - a. What did the Holy Spirit cause to “jump off the page” as you read?
  - b. Is anything repeated? Contrasted? Compared? (If so... why might that be?)
  - c. What are the verses revealing about God? About people?  
In light of these, what needs to change in your life? What are you already doing well?
2. Compare and contrast the interactions of the Pharisees with Jesus in verses 1-13 with the interaction of Jesus with gentile people in verses 24-37.
3. What declarations does Jesus make in verses 14-23? (hint: there are more than 1)
  - a. What do these declarations mean for you and me?
  - b. What are we to do in light of these declarations? (If Jesus can make the deaf hear and the mute speak, what can he do for those who recognize they have an unclean heart?)

## **EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY** – Reflect on the Heart

Though eating dirty food with dirty hands may not be the best for your stomach, it's not going to make you an evil person or fill you with wicked and bad intentions. So where did that jealous response come from? What about that angry and hurtful comment? How come when we see others succeed or the things they have, we can become envious and want what they have? Jesus says all these things come from our hearts! They come from within us! This is a scary and humbling reality. Yet, from that same place, the heart, Jesus tells us we are to love God. So take time this week and look at your heart. What do you see? Look at the list again in verses 21-22 for help. If you notice any of these things in your heart, confess them to Jesus. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you to love God instead. The more we do this, the more we will find ourselves loving the Lord with our hearts.

**SING** (Suggested songs to sing. Use these, or any favorites of the gathered group, to worship Jesus!)

Jesus Strong and Kind - [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eP\\_2Z39IGzI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eP_2Z39IGzI)

Give us Clean Hands - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O6QeWuGwr9E>

The Great I AM - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w2Yh4exnBU0>

Yet Not I, But Christ in Me - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rNXd0KQaYXg>

## **PRAY**

This is a time to gather around for prayer requests and to share how you have seen God at work. A time to hear where God is showing up in our lives and where we need Him to help us in our lives.

### **Sending prayer based on the message:**

O LORD, we are people of unclean hearts who focus more on exterior hygiene and appearance than internal health. As we go this week, help us to be quick to confess the ugly things in our hearts, experience your healing and transformation from the inside out and profess your truth, goodness and grace to those where we live, work, study and play.