

Our Enchanted Reality | Luke 4:14-44 Sermon Discussion Guide

Purpose of Discussion: To identify your need for Jesus to speak with authority and power in your life and to make a plan for how to encounter God through his word in 2024.

Icebreaker: Dave started by describing both the wonderful and the evil world events someone born in the year 1900 would have witnessed in their lifetime.

What wonderful historic events and progress have you been alive for? What evil events have occurred in your lifetime?

Read:

Luke 4:16-21

¹⁶ He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:

¹⁸ "The Spirit of the Lord is on me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners
and recovery of sight for the blind,
to set the oppressed free,
¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. ²¹ He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

1. Jesus says, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing," claiming that *he* is the fulfilment of this prophecy from Isaiah.

What, specifically is Jesus claiming he will accomplish?

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Transition: The Bible tells one epic story that starts with God creating a good world and ends with Jesus returning creation to this original state.

We live in the part of the story between Jesus's resurrection and his return. As Dave said, "a world inhabited by the Spirit of God and his holy spiritual beings *as well as* a world under the evil spell of spiritual beings who hate humanity and hate God's created world".

Read:

[1 John 5:19 \(ESV\)](#)

¹⁹ We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

[2 Corinthians 4:4](#)

⁴ The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel that displays the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

2. How have you experienced this kind of spiritual blindness that comes from the power of the evil?

3. How do you see this blindness affecting the world around us?

Read:

[Luke 4:31-36](#)

³¹ Then he went down to Capernaum, a town in Galilee, and on the Sabbath he taught the people. ³² They were amazed at his teaching, because his words had authority.

³³ In the synagogue there was a man possessed by a demon, an impure spirit. He cried out at the top of his voice, ³⁴ "Go away! What do you want with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!"

THE **crossing** **small groups**

³⁵ "Be quiet!" Jesus said sternly. "Come out of him!" Then the demon threw the man down before them all and came out without injuring him.

³⁶ All the people were amazed and said to each other, "What words these are! With authority and power he gives orders to impure spirits and they come out!" ³⁷ And the news about him spread throughout the surrounding area.

4. This passage shows Jesus *doing* what Isaiah's prophecy predicted.
What does Jesus do to free a man from demonic power?

Transition: As Dave said, we live in a world that's under an evil spell. As a result, we experience poverty, blindness, and oppression from unseen evil spiritual beings. Realizing this lets us see our need for Jesus more clearly. We're able to say, "I need Jesus to speak with authority and power in my life."

5. Have you experienced God's word transform your life in the past?
6. How do you want to experience God's work in your life this year? What do you hope and long to be true in your relationship with Jesus?

Optional Dig Deeper Questions:

- What makes it hard to believe that the word of God has the power and authority to change your life?
- What obstacles keep you from regular time with God in his word?

Sharing and Prayer:

Share your plan for spending time in God's word in 2024. What are some ideas for next steps if people don't have plans? How can you as a group encourage one another and help hold each other accountable?

Brainstorm these questions together, then end your time in prayer. Ask God to help make your plan a reality.