

APPLY

- In Christianity, there can be two extremes: too much focus on the supernatural or too little. Where are you? How has your background been an influence one way or the other?
- Have you ever encountered a situation where a demonic spirit was present or active in someone? If you are comfortable, sensitively share. If you haven't, how do you think you would handle such a situation?
- We can be fooled into thinking that knowing about God and going to church makes you immune to demonic influence or a demonic stronghold. Do you agree? Can a professed believer in Jesus be demonically oppressed?
- Dualism is the belief that the conflict between good vs evil is an even fight. The scriptures though are clear that the Devil is no match for Jesus. But how about in your own personal experience, does this seem to be the case?

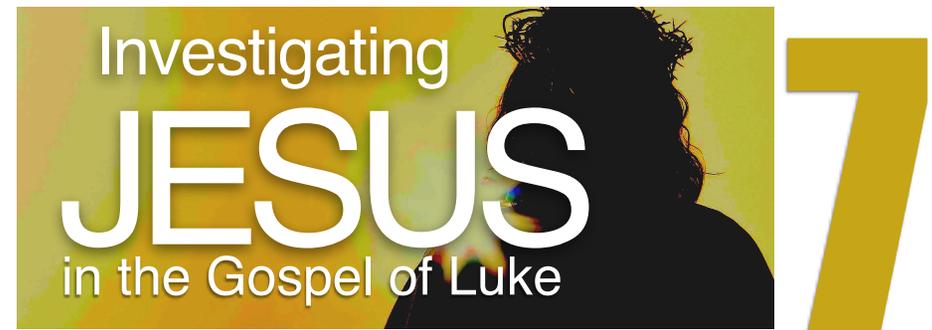
DISCUSSION CLOSE/HOMEWORK

Jesus has absolute power over darkness. Colossians tells us that Jesus is supreme over everything. Here are three things to remember when you are dealing with a spiritual attack or a demonic stronghold:

- No matter how dark or oppressed you may feel, there is always hope in Jesus' name.
- No matter how afraid you may feel, God's perfect love casts out fear and the false condemnation of the enemy.
- No matter who you are, Jesus will be faithful to deliver you if you sincerely repent and turn to him for deliverance.

GROUP PRAYER FOCUS

- Pray for the 'one another' commands of scripture to grow in our body and in your own walk with God and others.



Week 7: Jesus Delivers

Key Text: Luke 4:31-37

OPEN

In week 6, we looked at how Jesus began his ministry by declaring that the Father had anointed him to fulfill the words of Isaiah 61, "to proclaim good news to the poor" and "set the oppressed free." The very next thing Luke records is Jesus delivering a man from a demon, an impure spirit – and not where you would expect, in a synagogue – a place of worship! The reality is that every human being is in need of Jesus' power to be delivered from strong holds of spiritual darkness that come through falling prey to sin, whether a person is religious or not. Luke tells us that Jesus delivers. Jesus has the power to deliver us from demonic strongholds of the enemy to give us freedom from sin and the hope of a new life found in Him!

REFLECT

- Luke says the people were astonished at Jesus' teaching because it had authority. What do you think that meant?
- The man with the demonic spirit attended synagogue (church). How was someone with a significant demonic stronghold still comfortable to attend church? How can that be explained? Could that still happen today?
- Why do you think Jesus engaged in a public conversation with the demonic spirit and didn't just cast it out right away?