

The Gospel Project for Adults, Summer 2017
Interactive Teaching Tips for Adults, Session 12

Introduction: *Rekindle astonishment with God's power.*

Be prepared to share some about the most powerful forces in the universe, using the following website as information (note that some of the information comes from a naturalist perspective):

<http://www.sentientdevelopments.com/2009/06/ranking-most-powerful-forces-in.html>

Invite a volunteer to read aloud the first paragraph on God's omnipotence, found in the Personal Study Guide (page 110). Then read the last paragraph from the introduction from either the Personal Study Guide or Leader Guide (page 142).

Say something like this: "We may mentally know about God's power and that it is greater than anything else in the universe. But do we believe it is available to us and to others?"

Point 1: *Help the sick cope with ongoing suffering.*

After discussing Mark 5:21-29, say something like the following: "We love the passages about Jesus' healings. But many followers of Jesus have found ourselves sick, asked Him in faith to heal us, and did not find a miracle."

Share a time in your own life when you or a loved one suffered with sickness and did not find healing.

Briefly share the background story of Joni Eareckson Tada. (If you don't know her story, you can watch her tell it here in this video [7 minutes, 39 seconds]: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VVXJ8GyLgt0>)

Encourage those suffering with sickness with the following Joni Eareckson Tada video on finding peace in pain (2 minutes, 54 seconds): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FheUIFQ6pI>

Point 3: *Emphasize what it means to believe in Jesus.*

Point to the words of Jesus in Mark 5:36: "Don't be afraid. Only believe."

Invite volunteers to look up and read aloud the following passages of Jesus encouraging others to believe:

- Matthew 8:13
- Matthew 9:28
- Matthew 21:22
- Mark 9:23
- Mark 11:23-24

Ask, “What is it that Jesus instructed people to believe *in*?” Share the verses found here:

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matt+8%3A13%3B+Matt+9%3A28%3B+Matt+21%3A22%3B+Mark+9%3A23%3B+Mark+11%3A23-24&version=CSB>

Say something like this: “We are not to *believe in* ourselves, in others, or in tomorrow. We shouldn’t *believe in* technology, science, or earthly knowledge to heal us. We *believe in* Jesus, in who He is, and in the fact that we are His. And we can believe what He says about not only this life, but our eternity with Him.”

Conclusion: *Use a video to encourage trusting God after tragedy.*

Ask, “What did the woman suffering from bleeding and Jairus have in common?” (They both believed that Jesus had the power to heal when no one else could.)

Show the following movie clip from the film *Courageous* (2 minutes, 37 seconds): <http://www.wingclips.com/movie-clips/courageous/trust-god>

Encourage learners to believe that Jesus has ultimate power but that He also has ultimate wisdom. We can trust His love even when He chooses not to relieve us of our suffering.

Teaching Tip of the Week

Be acutely aware of those in your group who are not experiencing healing even when they sincerely trust in Jesus to provide it. In no instance should a person’s healing be presumptively tied to his or her faith (or lack thereof).