MEMORY VERSE: 1 John 3:8; The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the Devil’s work.

Luke 4:31-36; Jesus was teaching on a Sabbath in a town of Galilee. The people were amazed because His message had authority.

Have a discussion about authority. What is authority? Who do you know that has authority? E.g. Parents, teachers, police,

Someone who has authority over you, can tell you what to do and you have to do it whether you like it or not!

Our memory verse today says that Jesus came to destroy the Devil’s work. The Devil is the bad guy. The Bible also says that the thief comes only to kill, steal and destroy. I (Jesus) have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:10

As Jesus was teaching in the synagogue this particular day, there was a man possessed by an evil spirit. The evil spirit in him made him shout out to Jesus. “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!”

Jesus responded to the evil spirit by sternly saying “Be quiet and come out of him.” The evil spirit threw the man down on the ground and came out of him.

The people were amazed at this and said to each other, “What is this teaching? With authority and power he gives orders to evil spirits and they come out.”

This news about Jesus spread throughout the surrounding area.

Often an evil spirit would make a person sick, or in the story of Matt. 12:22-28, blind and mute. Mute means that he could not speak. Jesus healed him so the man could both see and speak. News like this, spread very quickly so everyone heard about Jesus and His wonderful miracles.

But there were also those who did not think it was so wonderful and they criticized him. Later they wanted to kill Jesus. Guess who made them think that way? The Devil because he is the one who wants to kill, steal and destroy. The Devil wanted to stop Jesus. The Devil always wants to stop someone who is doing good!

But Jesus did not stop. The Bible says (John 21:25) Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.