

# PENTECOST METHODIST CHURCH

## LIVE-IT-OUT GUIDE



**Sermon Date: 02/08/2020**

**Text(s): Mark 9:14–29**

**Sermon Title: Of Demons And The Best Weapon**

**Preacher: Rev Jason Phua**

(The sermon recording and slides are available in the PMC website and MyPMC App)

### **READ (5 mins)**

#### **Mark 9:14–29 (ESV)**

**14** And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them.

**15** And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to him and greeted him.

**16** And he asked them, **“What are you arguing about with them?”**

**17** And someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute.

**18** And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able.”

**19** And he answered them, **“O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me.”**

**20** And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth.

**21** And Jesus asked his father, **“How long has this been happening to him?”** And he said, “From childhood.

**22** And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.”

**23** And Jesus said to him, **“If you can! All things are possible for one who believes.”**

**24** Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, “I believe; help my unbelief!”

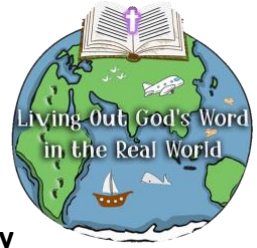
**25** And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, **“You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.”**

**26** And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.”

**27** But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose.

**28** And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?”

**29** And he said to them, **“This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.”**



### **REFLECT (30 mins)**

(Reflect on key themes and questions in the text)

- 1. The preacher began his sermon with a question about the existence of demons that is sometimes asked of him, and he would usually respond by sharing two stories. The first one involved a “spine-chilling scream” that both he and his wife heard. The second story involved sleepless nights and weird sounds coming from nowhere. Anyone has a story of your own of an encounter with “the dark side of the spiritual realm”?**
- 2. Why do some Christians deny or ignore the activities of demons? What do you think would be the result if we deny or ignore the existence and activities of demons/unclean spirits?**
- 3. A crowd gathered to watch the boy who was under the control of an unclean spirit and also to watch the disciples try their best to deliver the boy. The scribes were there arguing with the disciples. They could be demanding the disciples to leave the boy alone because they had once accused Jesus of casting out demons by the power of Satan (Mark 3:22). The father of the boy was desperately waiting for the disciples to finish the job, for his son to be set free. He later cried out to Jesus to set his son free and also to help him with his weak faith. Have you been like the crowd, the scribes and the father of the boy before? Was there a time you behaved more like a spectator than anything else? Was there a time you were very critical of the leadership of the church? And was there a time you desperately cried out to Jesus to for a solution to a problem?**

### **RELATE (30 mins)**

(Relate and apply God’s word to our daily lives)

- 1. The father of the boy said he believed, yet, at the same time, admitted he had a certain degree of unbelief. The disciples also had faith but in a parallel passage of the same incident, Jesus revealed that the disciples did lack faith (see Matthew 17:20). From the passage and from the sermon, what can we say about the faith of the father and the faith of the disciples if we were to compare them?**
- 2. The preacher shared that prayer is the best weapon given by God. The disciples failed not being that demon was particularly strong or that they needed a certain type of prayer. What they needed was to have a better understanding of prayer and a good amount of prayer. Can you recall what the preacher shared about prayer? Also, what difference would it make in our spiritual life whether we spend little or much time praying on a daily basis?**

**REST (15 mins)**

(Take time to share and pray for one another)

(Pray for our church, our nation, and our world. See MyPMC > PRAY for weekly guide)



- Pray together and ask God to help us to maintain a consistent prayer life and from there to have a strong faith life to overcome the challenges we face.
- Pray for one another to encounter Christ daily through His Word and His Spirit in order that we might become more and more like Christ.
- Pray for the churches in Singapore to have a stronger witness in Singapore and beyond in the days to come.