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## Community Group Material:

*Bible Reading: Luke 11:14-26*

**Bible Reading:** Luke 11:14-26 CSB

14 Now [Jesus] was driving out a demon that was mute. When the demon came out, the man who had been mute spoke, and the crowds were amazed. 15 But some of them said, “He drives out demons by Beelzebul, the ruler of the demons.” 16 And others, as a test, were demanding of him a sign from heaven. 17 Knowing their thoughts, he told them, “Every kingdom divided against itself is headed for destruction, and a house divided against itself falls. 18 If Satan also is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say I drive out demons by Beelzebul. 19 And if I drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your sons drive them out? For this reason they will be your judges. 20 If I drive out demons by the finger of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you. (Luke 11:14-20 CSB)

### **Stronger Man vs. the Strong Man (Lk. 11:21-23)**

21 When a strong man, fully armed, guards his estate, his possessions are secure. 22 But when one stronger than he attacks and overpowers him, he takes from him all his weapons he trusted in, and divides up his plunder. 23 Anyone who is not with me is against me, and anyone who does not gather with me scatters.

### **An Unclean Spirit’s Return (Lk. 11:24-26)**

24 “When an unclean spirit comes out of a person, it roams through waterless places looking for rest, and not finding rest, it then says, ‘I’ll go back to my house that I came from.’ 25 Returning, it finds the house swept and put in order. 26 Then it goes and brings seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they enter and settle down there. As a result, that person’s last condition is worse than the first.” (Lk. 11:24-26 CSB)

**SUMMARY:**

- “Gentle Jesus, meek and mild” is true—but incomplete. In Luke 11, Christ shows both compassion and confrontation. He mercifully frees a man from demonic oppression, yet is immediately slandered by religious leaders who claim He works by Beelzebul. This is not honest skepticism, but a willful rejection of God’s power. Jesus’ answer reveals the deeper reality: His miracles signal the arrival of God’s kingdom and the defeat of Satan’s. He is the stronger man who overpowers the enemy and liberates captives. This is spiritual warfare, not metaphor. But Jesus goes further—deliverance is not the end. An empty house invites danger; an unfilled soul remains vulnerable. Christ does not merely cleanse; He indwells. His aim is not surface reform but Spirit-filled transformation. Where He reigns, the enemy has no claim. True freedom means being filled, not just emptied—and living under His rule daily. We cooperate by guarding against spiritual vacuums.

**Discussion:**

## 1. Understanding the Conflict

- a. Why is it illogical, according to Jesus, to say He casts out demons by the power of Beelzebul?
- b. What does Jesus mean when He says, “a house divided against itself will fall”? How does this apply spiritually?
- c. Jesus says, “whoever is not with me is against me” (11:23). What does this teach about neutrality toward Christ?

## 2. Jesus &amp; the Kingdom of God

- a. What does Jesus mean by saying, “If I cast out demons by God’s finger then God’s kingdom has come upon you”?
- b. In the “strong man” illustration, who is the strong man, & who is the stronger man? What is being “plundered”?
- c. How does this passage reshape how we think about Jesus’ mission & spiritual warfare?

## 3. The Warning About the ‘Empty (unoccupied) House’ (11:24–26)

- a. What happens to the unclean spirit after it leaves the man? How does this illustrate our asking God to deliver us from our “one bad habit,” or the “one weakness” we still have? What’s wrong with this psychology?
- b. Why is a “spiritual vacuum” dangerous in our Christian life? What should/can we do about it?
- c. What’s the difference between moral reformation and true spiritual transformation?

## 4. Being Filled, Not Just Cleansed

- a. According to the sermon, what must replace what Christ casts out?
- b. What does it practically mean for Christ to “take possession” of a person’s life?
- c. How does the presence of the Holy Spirit protect a believer from spiritual vulnerability?

## 5. Personal Application

- a. Are there areas in your life where you’ve focused more on “cleaning up” than being filled with Christ?
- b. What habits or practices help ensure your life is filled with Christ rather than left spiritually empty?
- c. How can we actively cooperate with God in resisting spiritual attack and living under Christ’s reign?