

VBS

JULY
12-16



KNOW the GOSPEL!

BELIEVE the GOSPEL!

SPREAD the GOSPEL!

1ST - 5TH GRADE

**Day 2: Sharing with Friends
and Family**

Sharing with Friends and Family

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective This lesson will teach the importance of sharing the Gospel with our friends and family.

Key Verses

Mark 5:1-20—Main Teaching Passage

Matthew 8:28-34 ; Luke 8:26-39 (Parallel Passages)

James 2:19

Luke 19:10

Romans 8:31-39

Memory Verse - Mark 5:19

"Jesus said to him, 'Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you.'"

Hook

Review yesterday's memory verse, 1 Corinthians 15:3-4.

Imagine that you have just won an all inclusive, week-long trip to Disney World. You're going to fly first class, stay in a beautiful hotel, and meet all the Disney characters. You get a line pass which allows you to jump to the front of the line for every ride, and whenever you get hungry, you can have whatever food you want from whatever restaurant you want! All for FREE!

Now imagine that you're told you can invite whoever you want to join you! Who would be the first person you would tell? Who wouldn't you tell? In today's lesson, someone is given an even greater gift and was told to go tell his friends.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

As you teach this week's lesson, please be sensitive to the fact that this material could be scary to some of the children and seek to present it in an age-appropriate manner. Jesus and His disciples came to the other side of the sea to the country of the Gadarenes. They got out of their boat and were met on the shore by a man controlled by evil spirits (demons). The man lived among the tombs, yelling and screaming day and night. He was out of everyone's control. Not even chains could hold him!

This man ran to Jesus. He knew exactly who Jesus was: "Son of the Most High God!" Jesus told the demons to come out of the man, and they begged to be allowed to go into the herd of pigs that were grazing nearby. Jesus allowed it. The evil spirits came out of the man and entered into the pigs, after which the pigs ran into the lake and drowned.

The pig farmers went into a nearby town and told everyone what had happened. A crowd gathered to see if what they said was true. Sure enough, the man who no one else had been able to control was sitting at Jesus' feet, clothed and thinking clearly. The people were afraid! After hearing what had happened to the pigs, the crowd begged Jesus to leave. As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been healed begged to go with Jesus, but Jesus did not let him. Instead, Jesus told the man, "Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord had done for you. Tell them how kind He has been to you." So the man who had been healed went away. He went and told everyone all that Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

LOOK

Yesterday we learned that the Gospel is the good news of what Jesus has done for us and how He can be our Savior. Now this news is too wonderful and amazing for us to keep to ourselves. We need (and should want) to tell our friends, family, and everyone else we know about the Gospel, so that they can believe and be saved too. The man in our story today is a great example of telling our friends and family about what Jesus has done for us and how we can be saved.

This passage shows us the remarkable account of Jesus' power to deliver a man from evil spirits (or demons). This isn't the first time the Bible talks about these evil spirits and it's certainly not the last. Jesus delivered many people from demons during His earthly ministry. Followers of Jesus don't need to be afraid of demons. Jesus is much stronger. In fact, demons are afraid of Him (James 2:19)!

The man in today's story was out of everyone's control. He couldn't control himself and he couldn't be controlled by anyone else. It's hard for us to imagine what it must have been like! He was a man just like everybody else. He had family. He had friends. But everything had

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK (Continued)

changed. Everything was ruined. He left his family and friends behind and couldn't even go near them anymore. Something evil was living inside of him, controlling where he went, what he said, what he did. He was hopeless. No one could help him! They had tried and failed. Now everyone was afraid of him. Everyone except Jesus.

Jesus did what everyone else thought was impossible. He gave this man new life! He didn't just give him the ability to go home, but commanded him to do so, to tell them the amazing things that Jesus had done for him. The good news of Jesus had become a reality in this man's life. The man was so grateful that he wanted to get into the boat and follow Jesus wherever He went. But Jesus wanted this man to go home to speak with his friends and his family, who had witnessed how hopeless his life had been before he met Jesus. Jesus wanted him to show them with his life and tell them with his words about the good news of who Jesus was and what He had done.

You may think that you are very different from this wild man. This is a strange story. You may have never met anyone like this man, but Jesus wants to do something just as powerful and amazing in and through your life among your family and friends. We may not have an evil spirit living inside of us, but we do have a sinful heart. It holds us captive. We keep on sinning and need to be set free from its power.

That is why Jesus came. To set us free. To give us new life. To help us think clearly about God and the world around us. That is the good news! But the good news of Jesus wasn't just for the man in today's story, it was for that man's friends, family, and neighbors. Jesus wanted everyone that man knew to hear and to believe that He was God's Son, and He wants us to do the same thing! Think about what God has done for you. Think about your friends and family. Who doesn't believe in Jesus? Who needs to hear the gospel? Have you told them what God has done?

TOOK

As a class, memorize Mark 5:19.

Have the kids make a list of names of friends or family who aren't followers of Jesus. Pray together for those family members to be saved, and pray for boldness to share the good news of Jesus with them.

Pray: Thank Jesus for saving you from the power of sin. Ask Him to give you courage to tell your friends and family about all that Jesus has done for them.

Parent Question: What great things has the Lord done for you?

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Mark 5:1-20 by David Guzik

JESUS DEMONSTRATES HIS AUTHORITY

A. The authority of Jesus in the life of the Gaderene demoniac.

1. ([Mar 5:1-8](#)) The description of the demon-possessed man.

Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes. And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, who had *his* dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones. When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. And he cried out with a loud voice and said, "What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me." For He said to him, "Come out of the man, unclean spirit!"

a. **Immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit:** This is the most detailed description of a demon-possessed man we have in the Bible. It is the classic profile of demonic possession.

- The man had been demon possessed for a *long time* ([Luke 8:27](#)).
- The man wore no clothes and lived like a sub-human, or like a wild animal ([Luke 8:27](#)).
- The man lived among the decaying and dead, contrary to Jewish law and human instinct (**dwelling among the tombs**).
- The man had supernatural strength (**chains pulled apart**).
- The man was tormented and self-destructive (**crying out and cutting himself with stones**).
- The man had uncontrollable behavior (**neither could anyone tame him**). Strangely, some Christians think that this is how the Holy Spirit works: by overwhelming the operations of the body and making one do strange and grotesque things.
 - i. We can be sure that he did not start out this way. At one time this man lived among others in the village. But his own irrational, wild behavior convinced the villagers that he was demon possessed, or at least insane. They bound him with chains to keep him from hurting others, but he broke the chains time and again. Finally, they drove him out of town and he lived in the village cemetery, a madman among the tombs, hurting the only person he could – himself.

b. **Immediately there met Him:** When this man came to Jesus (Jesus did not seek out the man), Jesus said to the demon possessing the man, "**Come out of the man, unclean spirit!**"

c. **Jesus, Son of the Most High God:** This is what the demons said *in response* to Jesus' command to **come out of the man** (**for He said to them, "Come out of the man"**). This was a way they tried to *resist* the work of Jesus.

i. In the background of all this is the ancient superstition that you had spiritual power over another if you

knew or said their exact name. This is why the unclean spirits addressed Jesus with this full title: **Jesus, Son of the Most High God**. According to the superstitions of the day, this was like a round of artillery fired at Jesus.

ii. “The full address is not a confession of Jesus’ dignity but a desperate attempt to gain control over him or to render him harmless, in accordance with the common assumption of the period that the use of the precise name of an adversary gave one mastery over him.” (Lane)

iii. Therefore, in their address of Jesus, they have the right theological facts, but they don’t have the right heart. The demons inhabiting him had a kind of “faith” in Jesus. They knew the true identity of Jesus better than the religious leaders did. But it was not a faith or a knowledge of Jesus that could save ([James 2:19](#)).

d. **What have I to do with You... I implore You by God that You do not torment me:** This was the unclean spirit speaking, not the possessed man. The demon did not want to leave his host.

i. Demonic possession is when a demonic spirit *resides* in a human body, and at times the demon will show its own personality through the personality of the host body.

ii. Demonic possession is a reality today, though we must guard against either *ignoring* demonic activity or *over-emphasizing* supposed demonic activity.

e. **Do not torment me:** These demons considered it **torment** to be put out of this man’s body. Demons want to inhabit human bodies for the same reasons a vandal wants a spray can, or a violent man wants a gun. A human body is a weapon that a demon can use in attacking God.

i. Demons also attack men because they hate the image of God in man. They attack that image by debasing man and making him grotesque – just as they did to this man in the country of the Gadarenes.

ii. Demons have the same goal in Christians: to wreck the image of God. But their tactics are restricted toward Christians because demonic spirits were “disarmed” by Jesus’ work on the cross ([Colossians 2:15](#)). Yet demonic spirits certainly can both deceive and intimidate Christians, binding them with fear and unbelief.

2. ([Mar 5:9-13](#)) Jesus demonstrates His authority over evil spirits.

Then He asked him, “What is your name?” And he answered, saying, “My name is Legion; for we are many.” Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there near the mountains. So all the demons begged Him, saying, “Send us to the swine, that we may enter them.” And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the unclean spirits went out and entered the swine (there were about two thousand); and the herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea.

a. **What is your name?** Jesus probably asked for the name so that *we* would know the full extent of the problem, knowing that the man was filled with many demons (**Legion**) and not just one. A Roman legion usually consisted of 6,000 men. This does not mean that the man was inhabited with 6,000 demons, but that he had many.

i. From the account as a whole, we see that Jesus was *not* playing into the ancient superstition about knowing a demon’s name. In fact, Jesus showed that it was unnecessary for Him to know the name of the demon. When they replied “**Legion**,” they really weren’t saying a name, but simply trying to intimidate Jesus with a large number. **Legion** said, “There are a lot of us, we are organized, we are unified, we are ready to fight, and we are mighty.”

ii. If it was important for Jesus to know their names, He could have demanded “name, rank, and serial number” for each of them one by one. But Jesus would not play into their superstitions. His power was greater

than them. When it comes to demons and spiritual warfare, we must never be caught up in foolish and counter-productive superstitions.

iii. According to the superstitions of the day, the onlookers probably felt that the unclean spirits had the upper hand. They knew and declared a full name of Jesus. They evaded His request for their name. And finally, they hoped to frighten Jesus with their large number. But Jesus didn't buy into these ancient superstitions at all and easily cast the unclean spirits out of the afflicted man.

iv. "The answer may be evasive, the demons desiring to withhold their true names from Jesus in a desperate attempt to thwart his power. It is also possible that the name may have been selected to invoke the fear of a powerful name." (Lane)

b. **Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country:** [Luke 8:31](#) tells us that the demons also *begged Him that He would not command them to go out into the abyss*. They did not want to become "inactive." "Lo, it is another hell to the devil to be idle, or otherwise than evil-occupied." (Trapp)

i. "Satan would rather vex swine than do no mischief at all. He is so fond of evil that he would work it upon animals if he cannot work it upon men." (Spurgeon)

ii. In [Mark 5:7](#), the demons demonstrated that they knew who Jesus was. Here they demonstrate that they can "pray" to Jesus (**begged Him earnestly**). This shows that you can know who Jesus is and not surrender to Him. You can pray to Him and not surrender to Him.

c. **Send us to the swine, that we may enter them:** The demons wanted to enter the **swine** because demons are bent on destruction, and they *hate to be idle*. "The devil is so fond of doing mischief, that he will rather play at a small game than stand out." (Poole)

i. Notice that the demons can't even afflict *pigs* without the permission of God. "Since a demon cannot enter even into a *swine* without being *sent* by God himself, how little is the *power* or *malice* of them to be dreaded by those who have God for their portion and protector!" (Clarke)

d. **And at once Jesus gave them permission:** Instead of putting these unclean spirits completely out of commission, Jesus allowed this because the time of the total demonstration of His authority over demons had not yet come – it would come at the cross. [Colossians 2:15](#) tells us that at the cross Jesus disarmed demons in their attacks on believers, He made a public spectacle of their defeat, and He triumphed over them in His work on the cross.

e. **The herd ran violently down the steep place into the sea, and drowned in the sea:** The destructive nature of demonic spirits was shown by their effect on the swine. They are like their leader, Satan whose desire is to *steal, and to kill, and to destroy*. ([John 10:10](#))

i. This shows another reason *why* Jesus allowed the demons to enter the pigs – because He wanted everyone to know what the real intention of these demons was. They wanted to destroy the man just as they destroyed the pigs. Because men are made in the image of God, they could not have their way as easily with the man, but their intention was just the same: to completely destroy him.

ii. " 'But the owners of the swine lost their property.' Yes, and learn from this how small value temporal riches are in the estimation of God. He suffers them to be lost, sometimes to disengage us from them through *mercy*; sometimes out of *justice*, to punish us for having *acquired* or *preserved* them either by *covetousness* or *injustice*." (Clarke)

3. ([Mar 5:14-17](#)) The reaction of the bystanders to the deliverance of the demon-possessed man.

So those who fed the swine fled, and they told *it* in the city and in the country. And they went out to see what it was that had happened. Then they came to Jesus, and saw the one *who had been demon-possessed and had the legion, sitting and clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. And those who saw it told them how it happened to him who had been demon-possessed, and about the swine. Then they began to plead with Him to depart from their region.*

a. **And they were afraid:** They were more afraid of a free man than a possessed man. When they saw the man **in his right mind**, sitting at the feet of Jesus, **they were afraid**.

i. Part of their fear was found in the fact that their superstitions were shattered, and they didn't know what to make of it all. According to their superstitions, the demons should have had the upper hand over Jesus – but they didn't. They had a hard time accepting this.

b. **Then they began to plead with Him to depart from their region:** Before, they didn't seem to mind having a demon-possessed, tormented man in their midst. Yet they did mind having Jesus around, so they asked Him to leave – *and He did!*

i. When people are more afraid of what Jesus will do in their lives than what Satan does in the moment, they often push Jesus away.

4. ([Mar 5:18-20](#)) The reaction of the man who had been delivered from demons.

And when He got into the boat, he who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him. However, Jesus did not permit him, but said to him, “Go home to your friends, and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you, and how He has had compassion on you.” And he departed and began to proclaim in Decapolis all that Jesus had done for him; and all marveled.

a. **He who had been demon-possessed begged Him that he might be with Him:** The man who had been set free by Jesus just wanted to be with Jesus. This man didn't want only what Jesus could do for him. The true change in his heart was shown by his desire to **be with** Jesus.

i. **He who had been demon possessed:** “That is a striking name for a man, ‘he that had been possessed with the devil.’ It would stick to him as long as he lived, and it would be a standing sermon wherever he went. He would be asked to tell the story of what he used to be and how the change came about. What a story for any man to tell!” (Spurgeon)

b. **Jesus did not permit him:** Jesus did not allow this because He knew that the man had a more important ministry with his own family and community.

i. Sometimes we have a hard time understanding the ways of God. The people of the city made an evil request: *they began to plead with Him to depart from their region*, and Jesus answered their prayer. The man **who had been demon possessed** made a godly request: **that he might be with Him**, and Jesus said no to that prayer.

ii. Of course, this was because this man could be a light among the people of these Gentile cities in a way that Jesus and the disciples could not. But it was also to cure the man of any superstitions. He might have thought that he had to stay close to Jesus to keep the demons from coming back. “Perhaps, too, his prayer was not answered, lest his fear should have been thereby sanctioned. If he did fear, and I feel morally certain that he did, that the devils would return, then, of course, he longed to be with Christ. But Christ took that fear from him, and as good as says to him, ‘You do not need to be near me; I have so healed that you will never be sick again.’” (Spurgeon)

c. **What great things Jesus had done for him:** This was a great message to tell. This is a gospel we should all

be able to preach. The man set free did, because **he departed and began to proclaim... all that Jesus had done for him**. His story showed the value of *one life* to Jesus, because this was the only reason why Jesus came to this side of the Sea of Galilee. His story also showed that with Jesus, *no one is beyond hope*, because if this man could be changed than anyone could.

i. **Began to proclaim in Decapolis:** "The Decapolis was ten Greek cities on the eastern side of the sea of Galilee, including Damascus. It was to this gentile community that Jesus commanded this man to go and bear witness." (Stedman)

ii. "Decapolis literally means The Ten Cities. Near to the Jordan and on its east side, there were ten cities mainly of rather a special character. They were essentially Greek. Their names were Scythopolis, which was the only one on the west side of the Jordan, Pella, Dion, Gerasa, Philadelphia, Gadara, Raphana, Kanatha, Hippos and Damascus." (Barclay) The spectacular remains of Scythopolis can be seen today.

iii. "He was told to publish what great things *the Lord* had done for him. He went and published what great things *Jesus* had done for him. Did he make any mistake? Oh, no! It is but another name for the same Person: for Jesus is the Lord; and when you speak of him as divine, and talk of him in terms fit only for God, you do but speak rightly; for so he deserveth to be praised." (Spurgeon)