

Jesus Has Power Over Evil

BIBLE PASSAGE: Mark 5:1-20

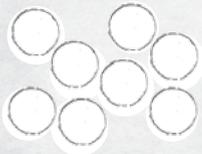
MAIN POINT: Jesus healed a man with many evil spirits.

KEY PASSAGE: Psalm 103:2-3

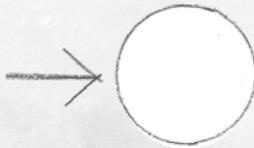
BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What did Jesus heal people from? Jesus healed people from sickness, sin, and death.

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Leader BIBLE STUDY

Jesus had enemies. In the midst of His public ministry, the Jewish religious leaders began plotting to kill Him. (See Mark 3:6.) So one day, Jesus went to a land on the east side of the Sea of Galilee where Gentiles lived. Jesus' mission to the Gentiles was not a backup plan after the Jews rejected Him; when Jesus was an infant, Simeon prophesied that His work would be for all people—both Jews and Gentiles. (See Luke 2:30-32.)

In that land was a man who needed help. An evil spirit was inside the man, and he suffered greatly. The people had tried to control the man by tying him up with chains, but the man broke free. So he lived alone in the tombs, crying

out day and night.

When Jesus stepped ashore, the man ran to Him and kneeled down. Jesus commanded the evil spirit to come out of the man. Many evil spirits were in the man, and Jesus gave the evil spirits permission to go into a herd of pigs. They did, and the man was healed.

The healed man wanted to travel with Jesus, but Jesus told the man to go home to his own people and tell what the Lord had done for him. The man obeyed Jesus. He testified to the cities in that area about the Lord's mercy, and the Gentiles were amazed.

Jesus is Lord over all things, good and evil. In His teaching, Jesus said, "If I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you" (Matt. 12:28). Jesus—as well as the Bible—is clear that Satan exists, and he and the demons work against God and His purposes.

Jesus came to earth to destroy the Devil by dying on the cross, and He was victorious. A battle between good and evil still rages on today, but the outcome has already been decided. Spoiler alert: Jesus wins. One day, Jesus will end evil forever.



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Additional resources for each session are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

Jesus Has Power Over Evil

Mark 5:1-20

• **Set apart dialogue:**

Give an adult volunteer a copy of the Bible story script. When you come to dialogue, pause and allow the volunteer to speak the line in a unique voice.

• **Listen and react:**

Encourage kids to listen closely. Any time you say “evil spirit(s),” pause and allow the kids to briefly boo, hiss, or stamp their feet.

One day, Jesus and His disciples sailed across the sea from Galilee to the region of the Gerasenes (GEHR uh seens). As soon as Jesus stepped out of the boat, a man came out to meet Him. The man had been living in the caves where people were buried.

Something was wrong with the man; he was not himself. **He had an evil spirit in him that caused him to hurt and suffer.** People had tried to tie up the man with chains and shackles, but the man had broken the chains and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to tie him up.

This man saw Jesus coming, and he ran to meet Him. **He knelt down in front of Jesus, and Jesus commanded the evil spirit. “Come out of this man!”** Jesus said. The man cried out with a loud voice, and **the evil spirit spoke through him. “What do You have to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You before God, don’t punish me!”**

Jesus asked, “What is your name?”

The evil spirit inside the man answered, “My name is Legion because there are many evil spirits with me.” **The spirits inside the man begged Jesus not to send them away.**

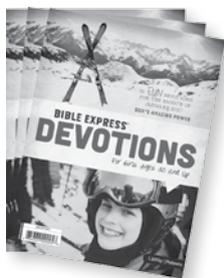
Nearby, a large herd of pigs was eating on a hillside. The evil spirits said, “If you send us anywhere, send us into those pigs.” So Jesus allowed the evil spirits to leave the man and go into the pigs. **All of the pigs—about 2,000 of them—ran down the hill and into the sea.** They drowned there.

The men who took care of the pigs saw what

happened, and they ran off and told everyone in the town and the nearby farms about what Jesus had done. The people came out to see Jesus, and they saw the man who had been living in the caves. The man did not have an evil spirit inside him anymore. He was dressed and behaved normally again. The people were afraid, and they asked Jesus to leave.

As Jesus was getting back into the boat, the man who had been living in the caves asked Jesus if he could go with Him. But Jesus did not allow the man to go with Him. Jesus said, “Go home to your friends and family members. Tell them what happened and how the Lord helped you.” The man obeyed Jesus. He told all the people about what Jesus had done for him. All the people were amazed.

Christ Connection: Only Jesus had the strength to control the man with the evil spirits. Jesus has power over evil, and He used His power to free the man. He has power over everything. Jesus came to earth to destroy the Devil by dying on the cross. One day, Jesus will end evil forever.



**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD'S WORD?
GET
BIBLE EXPRESS!**

Invite kids to check out this week's devotionals to discover that only Jesus has power to heal us from sickness, sin, and death. Jesus healed the man with evil spirits and gave him new life. Jesus heals and saves! (Jer. 17:14) Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Small Group OPENING

SESSION TITLE: Jesus Has Power Over Evil

BIBLE PASSAGE: Mark 5:1-20

MAIN POINT: Jesus healed a man with many evil spirits.

KEY PASSAGE: Psalm 103:2-3

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What did Jesus heal people from? Jesus healed people from sickness, sin, and death.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. As kids arrive, invite them to share about a time they had a really big problem. Was anyone able to help?

Activity page (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete the “Power Up” on the activity page. Kids should search the puzzle and circle the word power each time it appears.

SAY • How many times did you find the word power in the puzzle? (*11 times*) Today’s Bible story is about something that Jesus has power over.

- “Power Up” activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers



- index cards
- marker

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: Animal guessing game

Before the session, write the names of animals on separate index cards. Prepare at least one card per kid. Use a variety of animals names. Write *pig* on a few of the cards.

Form two teams. The first player on team 1 should draw a card and say three words to describe the animal. For example, a player might say “pink,” “farm,” and “oink” for

the word *pig*. If her teammates guess the animal within 30 seconds, they earn one point. Then play passes to team 2.

A player will draw another card and say three words to describe the animal. If a team cannot guess the animal within 30 seconds, allow the other team to guess. Then prompt the player to say a fourth word to describe the animal. Continue until everyone has a turn.

SAY • Great descriptions, everyone! Which animal was described more than once? (*pig*) Today we are going to hear a Bible story about a time Jesus healed someone. This healing involved a herd of pigs!

OPTION 2: What's different?

Lead each kid to find a partner. Direct partners to stand facing each other. If there is an odd number of kids, form a group of three or let an adult partner with a kid. Instruct each kid to look carefully at his partner for 30 seconds. Encourage her to study every detail about her partner's hair, clothing, and appearance.

Instruct each pair to turn back to back. Guide each child to change one thing about her appearance that can be clearly seen. For example, untie a shoe, remove glasses, pull out a pocket, remove jewelry, roll down a sock, turn up a collar, or so forth. Invite kids to turn around and see which partner can identify what's different first. Allow kids to switch partners and play again.

SAY • Today we are going to hear a Bible story about a man who had an evil spirit in him. But after the man met Jesus, he was very different! Let's find out how he changed.

Transition to large group

Large Group LEADER

SESSION TITLE: Jesus Has Power Over Evil

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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What did Jesus heal people from? Jesus healed people from sickness, sin, and death.

Countdown

• countdown video

Show the countdown video as your kids arrive, and set it to end as large group time begins.

Introduce the session (3 minutes)

• leader attire
• rubber gloves
• walkie-talkie
• clipboard

[Large Group Leader enters wearing dark pants, a light shirt, and rubber gloves. Leader carries a walkie-talkie in one hand and a clipboard in the other.]

LEADER • *[Speak into the walkie-talkie.]* Yes, 10-9 please.

OK. Code 4. Over and out. *[Turn off the walkie-talkie and address the kids.]*

Hello, everyone! Good to see you! I'm just wrapping up my shift as an EMT. Does anyone know what EMT stands for? (*emergency medical technician*) An EMT is trained to provide expert emergency medical care in the field, no matter what happens.

After a long shift, I really enjoy reading my Bible. The stories in the Bible remind me that no matter what I face on the job, God is in control. And even when things don't turn out how I want, I can trust that God is good and that He loves us. God proved that when He sent His Son, Jesus, to rescue people

from sin. In our Bible story today, Jesus went out into the field to help people who needed Him—kind of like an EMT!

Big picture question (1 minute)

LEADER • While Jesus was on earth, He spent time with many people. He told stories, or parables, and He also performed miracles. Sometimes Jesus even healed people.

The big picture question and answer we learned last week is, *What did Jesus heal people from? Jesus healed people from sickness, sin, and death.* Think about that as you hear this week's Bible story.

Giant timeline (1 minute)

Point to the giant timeline or big story circle.

LEADER • Last week, we heard a story about how **Jesus healed a man and forgave his sins.** This week's story is called "Jesus Has Power Over Evil." It comes from the Gospel of Mark in the New Testament. Check this out.

• Giant Timeline or
Big Story Circle

Tell the Bible story (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Mark 5:1-20. Use the Bible storytelling tips on the Bible story page to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video "Jesus Has Power Over Evil."

LEADER • On the other side of the Sea of Galilee was the region of the Gerasenes. The people who lived there were not Jews. When Jesus got out of His boat, a man ran to Him. The man had a hard life. He had an evil spirit in him that caused him to suffer and hurt himself or others. People had tried to control

• Bibles
• "Jesus Has Power Over Evil" video
• Big Picture Question Poster
• Bible Story Picture Poster

the man, but the evil spirit inside him was too strong. The man lived alone in caves.

Jesus told the evil spirit to come out of the man. The evil spirit was afraid of Jesus. It said, “What do You have to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God?” The evil spirit begged Jesus not to send it and the other evil spirits away. In fact, the evil spirits asked to be sent into a herd of pigs. Jesus allowed the spirits to go into the pigs.

The evil spirits came out of the man and went into the pigs. The group of pigs—about 2,000 of them—ran down the hillside and into the sea! All of the pigs drowned.

The men who took care of the pigs saw what happened. They ran to tell everyone what they saw. The people saw that the man did not have an evil spirit anymore. Jesus used His power to free the man from the power of the evil spirit. Jesus is Lord over all things, good and evil.

The man wanted to travel with Jesus, but what did Jesus tell him to do? Yes, He told the man to go home and tell everyone how the Lord had helped him.

Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.

Christ connection

LEADER • Jesus healed a man with many evil spirits.

Only Jesus had the strength to control the man with the evil spirits. Jesus has power over evil, and He used His power to free the man. He has power over everything. Jesus came to earth to destroy the Devil by dying on the cross. One day, Jesus will end evil forever.

Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Read Psalm 103:2-3 aloud. Then lead boys and girls to read the key passage together.

LEADER • Wow, this is a great reminder from King David.

Jesus forgives our sin! This is good news. We should remember what Jesus has done for us and praise Him! Let's sing.

Lead boys and girls to sing "My Soul, Praise the Lord."

- Key Passage Poster
- "My Soul, Praise the Lord" song

Discussion starter video (4 minutes)

LEADER • Have you ever been afraid of the dark? The Bible describes sin and evil as darkness, and it describes Jesus as light. Think about that and watch this video.

Show the "Unit 24, Session 2" discussion starter video.

Then guide kids to discuss the following questions:

- Have you ever felt scared? What did you do?
- What can we do when we face evil?
- How does this story give you hope and confidence when you encounter evil?

LEADER • Evil does exist in the world. Evil does not come from God, and we can look to Him when we are afraid. Jesus has power over evil. He is the light in a dark world. We can trust God to conquer even the greatest evil. Jesus has power over everything. He frees people from sin and death.

- "Unit 24, Session 2" discussion starter video

Sing (4 minutes)

LEADER • Imagine how the man must have felt to be free from the evil spirits. Jesus gives us freedom from sin and death. Now that makes me want to sing!

Sing together "Mighty Healer."

- "Mighty Healer" song

Pray (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to small groups.

LEADER • Father God, thank You for Your Word. We too are amazed by Your Son. We look to You alone, Jesus, for our healing and salvation. No one is too far from Your reach. We love You. Amen.

Dismiss to small groups

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus.

Tip: Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

Small Group LEADER

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Key passage activity (5 minutes)

• Key Passage Poster

Show the key passage poster and invite kids to read it aloud together two or three times. Then cover or remove the poster. Begin saying the key passage, one or two words at a time, and then pause. Prompt kids to supply the next word. Then say the next one or two words. Pause again for kids to say the next word. Continue through the entire key passage.

SAY • In today's Bible story, **Jesus healed a man with many evil spirits.** Psalm 103:2-3 reminds us that Jesus is our Healer. Like the people in the Bible, we can look to Him to heal us from sickness, sin, and death.

Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Main Point Poster
- "Review Question Strips" printable
- marker
- tape or stapler
- paper bag

Before small group, print and cut apart the "Review Question Strips." Be sure to include about 20 blank strips. Put all of the strips in a bag.

Form two teams of kids. Allow the first player from team 1 to pull a strip from the bag. If the strip contains a question, the player should answer it. If correct, he may tape the ends of the strip together to form a loop. If incorrect, he should put the strip back in the bag and play passes to the next team. The first player from team 2 will

pull a strip. If the strip is blank, consider it a “free play” and guide him to tape it into a loop. Team will continue pulling strips one at a time. For each correct answer or free play, players will add a link to their team’s chain. The team with the most links when all the strips are used is the winner.

If both teams struggle to answer a question, guide them to find the referenced verse or verses in the Bible. Remind kids that the Gospel of Mark is the second book in the New Testament.

SAY • In today’s Bible story, **Jesus healed a man with many evil spirits**. Only Jesus had the strength to control the man with the evil spirits. Chains could not hold the man. Jesus has power over evil. In fact, Jesus has power over everything. He came to earth to destroy the Devil by dying on the cross. One day, Jesus will end evil forever.

Option: Retell or review the Bible story using the bolded text of the Bible story script.

Activity choice (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: The sculptor and the clay

Guide each kid to find a partner. Kids will choose one partner to be the sculptor; the other is the clay. You will say a phrase and challenge the sculptors to gently move their clay to represent the phrase. Work with the following guidelines:

1. Clay should begin standing straight with their arms to their sides.
2. Sculptors should move the clay gently. Do not force a move that causes the clay to fall.
3. Instead of touching the clay’s face, the sculptor should show an expression on her own face and the clay should mirror it.
4. No talking! Clay doesn’t speak or understand the



language of the sculptor.

5. Give a 10-second countdown for sculptors to make finishing touches.

Consider using these phrases: *eating a whole pie, running from bears, dancing at a fancy ball, thinking about life.*

Allow kids a couple minutes to work. Then allow each sculptor to present her work. Switch roles and play again.

SAY • If you were the sculptor, you had complete control over the clay. As the clay, how did you feel having to do what someone else decided? [*Allow responses.*]

Today we heard a story from the Bible about how Jesus helped a man who was controlled by something that was not himself. **Jesus healed a man with many evil spirits.** Did you know that unless Jesus saves us, we too are controlled by something? We are controlled by sin. Sin separates us from God, but Jesus came to earth, died on the cross to take the punishment we deserve, and rose again. When we trust in Him, God forgives our sin and gives us eternal life. Sin no longer controls us, so we can live for Him!

OPTION 2: Pass the pigs

Form two teams of kids. Instruct each team to form a single-file line. Position a basket of balloons at the front of each line. Make sure each team has the same number of balloons—up to 10 balloons.

When you say “go,” the first person in line will grab a balloon and pass it over her head to the next player. The second player will pass it between his knees to the third player. Players continue passing over and under until the balloon reaches the end of the line.

Option: Review the gospel with boys and girls. Explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions.

- pink balloons
- laundry baskets, 2
- Allergy Alert download

The last player should pop the balloon. Then that player will run to the front of the line, grab another balloon, and pass it over her head to the next player. Continue play until a team has popped all of its balloons.

SAY • We learned today that **Jesus healed a man with many evil spirits.** What did Jesus send into the herd of pigs? (*the evil spirits*) What happened to the pigs? (*They rushed into the sea and drowned, Mark 5:11-13*)

Journal and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Encourage kids to write a few sentences about what they were like before they met Jesus and how they have changed after meeting Jesus. If a kid is not yet a believer, prompt him to list questions he has about Jesus, the Bible, or church.

SAY • In today's Bible story, Jesus healed a man with many evil spirits. Jesus came to earth to heal and rescue people. ***What did Jesus heal people from? Jesus healed people from sickness, sin, and death.*** When we trust in Him as our Lord and Savior, God forgives our sins and gives us eternal life.

Lead kids in prayer. Pray that kids would trust God when they face evil in the world. Thank God for sending His Son, Jesus, to show His power over evil and to rescue us from sin. Pray that kids who have been changed by Jesus would go and tell others about what He has done.

As time allows, lead kids to complete "Tell the Story" on the activity page. Direct kids to use the words from the word box to fill in the blanks and complete the story. (*Answers: Gerasenes, evil spirit, commanded, begged, pigs, hill, sea, afraid, leave, friends, helped, power, forever.*)

Tip: Suggest that kids sit on the balloon to pop it.

- pencils
- Journal Page
- "Tell the Story" activity page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's *Big Picture Cards for Families* to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.