

## Jesus Has Power Over Evil

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** Mark 5:1-20

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

**KEY PASSAGE:** Psalm 103:2-3

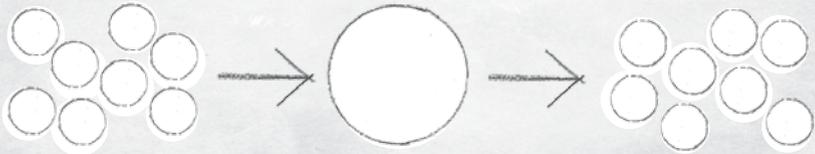
**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What did Jesus heal people from? Jesus healed people from sickness, sin, and death.

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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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# The BIBLE STORY

## Bible Storytelling Tips

## Jesus Has Power Over Evil

*Mark 5:1-20*

### • 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 sees). 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.

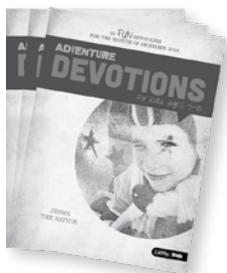
Nearby, a large herd of pigs was eating on a hillside. The evil spirits said, “If you send us anywhere, send us into those pigs.” So Jesus allowed the evil spirits to leave the man and go into the pigs. All of the pigs—about 2,000 of them—ran down the hill and into the sea. They drowned there.

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  
ADVENTURE!**

Invite kids to check out this week's devotionals to discover 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](http://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.

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## 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, ask them if they have ever seen a pig in real life, maybe at a petting zoo.

**SAY** • Today we will hear a story about Jesus healing another man. Believe it or not, Jesus used a herd of pigs as part of the way He healed the man. We'll learn more soon.

## Activity page (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete the "Power Play" activity page. Kids will come up with words that start with each different letter in the word *power*. Each word will have something to do with Jesus. Help kids with any spelling issues they may have.

**SAY** • We can use many words to describe Jesus. One word we will hear a lot today is the word *power*. Jesus has power over sickness and even over evil! We will learn what that means when we hear the Bible story later.

- "Power Play" activity page, 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

## Session starter (10 minutes)

### OPTION 1: Power poses

Instruct kids to dance while you play music. When you stop the music, kids must freeze in their best “power pose,” such as flexing muscles, standing like a superhero, and so forth. Any kid caught dancing after the music stops is out. Play until only one kid is left. Restart as time allows.

**SAY** • Power is an interesting idea. When we think of power, we think of body builder, superheroes, and other such things. Today we will learn about Jesus’ power and how He used it to heal a man with a very big problem.

### OPTION 2: Chain breakers

Allow the kids to take turns tying up each other’s wrists in tissue paper. After each kid is wrapped, give him a signal to begin breaking free. For an added challenge, help the kids braid three strands of tissue paper into a braid. Can anyone still break it?

**SAY** • Tissue paper is not that strong. It’s fun to be wrapped up and tear free, but if you wanted to tie someone up, you wouldn’t use such a weak material. In our story today we will hear about a man who tore off even strong chains people used to tie him up. Who do you think might have that much power? Can you think of anyone who might have even more power?



- “Mighty Healer” song (optional)
- “My Soul, Praise the Lord” song (optional)

- tissue paper

## Transition to large group

# Large Group LEADER

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## 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

*[Large Group Leader enters wearing white lab coat and stethoscope around his or her neck.]*

**LEADER** • Welcome back, everyone! I'm glad you are here.

I just got done helping a kid who tripped and fell on a sharp rock. It left a deep cut in his knee! He was hurt, but I was able to give him the treatment he needed, so he will be just fine. I stitched him up and gave him some medicine to make sure the cut doesn't get infected. An *infection* is when lots of germs get into your body to live. Germs can cause lots of nasty problems for us. It actually had me thinking about a Bible story about a man who had evil spirits living in him. In a way it was like they had infected him, and they caused lots of problems. I have a few minutes to share it with you, if you want? *[Allow responses.]* Wonderful! I was hoping you'd want to hear it.

## Big picture question (1 minute)

**LEADER** • Remember our big picture question and answer?

Let's say it together: *What did Jesus heal people from? Jesus healed people from sickness, sin, and death.* Great job!

## Giant timeline (1 minute)

**LEADER** • Last week we learned that **Jesus healed a man and forgave his sins.** The religious leaders were unhappy because they didn't think Jesus had power to forgive sin, but He showed that He is God the Son. He has power to heal and to forgive. Today we will learn about another man who needed Jesus' help. Our story is called "Jesus Has Power Over Evil."

• Giant Timeline

## 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** • Wow! I bet the man with the evil spirits would have been pretty scary at first. He had been living in caves, and he had even hurt himself with rocks. He was probably very dirty. We also know that he was strong and even dangerous because people kept trying to tie him up, but he always broke free. Clearly the man was filled with powerful, evil spirits.

Jesus was more powerful than even a large group of evil spirits. The spirits fell down before Jesus and begged Jesus not to send them away. They knew that Jesus' power was much greater than their own power. Whatever Jesus told them, they would have to obey.

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

**Jesus healed a man with many evil spirits** and sent the spirits into a herd of pigs. Finally, the man was free again! He could think and act the way he wanted to, and he did not have evil spirits controlling him or hurting him anymore.

The man asked Jesus to let him travel with Jesus and the disciples, but Jesus had other plans for the man. Jesus asked him to go back to his home and explain what had happened. The man obeyed and told everyone what Jesus had done for him. The people were amazed. They could hardly believe that Jesus had power to control the man and heal him.

## Christ connection

**LEADER** • 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.

We have sin in our hearts that makes us want things that are against God. The Bible teaches that due to sin, we deserve death. Thankfully, Jesus uses His power to free us from sin. Jesus died on the cross and rose again on the third day to make the way back to God. When we believe in Him, God sees us as righteous and adopts us into His family. We get to live with God forever instead of being punished for sin. Jesus has promised to come back, and when He does, He will get rid of all evil forever.

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.

## Key passage (5 minutes)

Show the key passage poster. Lead the boys and girls to read together Psalm 103:2-3.

**LEADER** • David's psalm reminded him to praise God for the healing and forgiveness He provides. We can praise God for the same reasons! As we read this key passage, remember what Jesus has done for us at the cross, and praise Him for it.

Lead boys and girls in singing "My Soul, Praise the Lord."

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

## Discussion starter video (4 minutes)

**LEADER** • Do you remember the last time you had trouble sleeping because of something scary you saw? We'll talk more about that after this video. Check it out.

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

Discuss with kids things that make us feel afraid. How do they deal with fear? What is the best thing we can do when we are afraid?

**LEADER** • Often the things that scare us, like movie monsters or TV shows, are made-up and cannot hurt us. Sadly, real evil things are in the world that do hurt people because sin is in the world. Evil does not come from God, but God has power over evil. God sent Jesus to die on the cross for our sins to save us from the evil of sin. We can trust Him to free us from sin and death. The Bible teaches that nothing can separate us from God's love, not even evil. [See *Romans 8:38-39*.]

- "Unit 24, Session 2" discussion starter video

## Sing (4 minutes)

**LEADER** • Jesus is so good. He has power over evil and uses His power to protect us and lead us back to God.

- "Mighty Healer" song

Let's take some time to sing together and worship Him.  
Sing together "Mighty Healer."

### **Pray (2 minutes)**

Invite kids to pray before dismissing to small groups.

**LEADER** • Father, thank You for Your goodness. We know that there is evil and sin in the world. Thank You that Jesus is more powerful than anything or anyone else. Help us to trust in Him for our salvation. Thank You that we don't have to be afraid of evil. 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. 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
- paper
- scissors
- pen
- balloons
- Allergy Alert download

Before the session, cut paper into strips. Write each word or phrase of the key passage on a different strip. Roll the strips and put each in a balloon. Blow up the balloons and tie them off. Invite the class to line up single file. Give the first kid in line a balloon and instruct her to pass the balloon over her head to the kid behind her. That kid will pass the balloon under his legs to the kid behind him. Kids will pass the balloon in this way until the last kid in line gets it. He will stomp on the balloon to pop it, then run to the front of the line to pass the next balloon. Once all balloons are popped, challenge the kids to put the strips in order to complete the passage.

**SAY** • David wrote Psalm 103 as a reminder to himself and others that God is in control and able to heal and forgive. Let's work on memorizing this verse so that we can remember the same thing!

## Bible story review & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Main Point Poster
- "Bible Story Review" printable

Before class, print the "Bible Story Review" pictures. Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help kids find Mark 5:1-20. Challenge them to use their Bibles to put the pictures in the

correct order. When they have finished, ask the following questions, calling on different kids to answer. If they struggle to answer, direct them to the reference provided.

Questions:

1. Where did Jesus meet the man with an evil spirit? (*in the region of the Gerasenes, Mark 5:1*)
2. How did the people try to control the man? (*They tried to tie him up with chains and shackles, Mark 5:3-4*)
3. What did Jesus command the evil spirit to do? (*come out, Mark 5:8*)
4. Where did Jesus send the evil spirits? (*into a herd of pigs, Mark 5:12*)
5. What happened to the pigs? (*They ran down the hill and drowned in the sea, Mark 5:13*)
6. How did the man behave after Jesus sent away the evil spirits? (*He was dressed and behaved normally again, Mark 5:15*)
7. What did Jesus tell the man to do? (*go home and tell people what God did for him, Mark 5:19*)
8. When people heard what Jesus had done, how did they feel? (*They were amazed, Mark 5:20*)

**SAY • Jesus healed a man with many evil spirits.** Before Jesus healed him, no one could control him. He was dangerous and hurt himself and others. But the evil spirits, even though they were powerful, had to obey Jesus. Jesus has power over all things. Jesus died on the cross and rose again to make the way for us to be forgiven of sin. ***What did Jesus heal people from? Jesus healed people from sickness, sin, and death.*** We don't need to fear evil because Jesus defeated it.

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



LOW PREP

- toy pigs, 2
- buckets, 2.

## Activity choice (10 minutes)

### OPTION 1: Pig toss

Form two teams of kids. Provide each team with a plastic pig and a bucket. Kids must stand at one end of the room and toss their team's pig into their team's bucket. Each time a kid is able to land the pig in the correct bucket, her team gets a point. The team with the most points after each kid has had a chance to toss the pig wins.

**SAY** • In our story today, the evil spirits knew that Jesus had power over them. They had to obey Jesus. They asked Jesus not to send them away and to send them into a herd of pigs instead. **Jesus healed a man with many evil spirits** by sending the spirits into the pigs. The pigs ran off a cliff into the ocean, but the man was safe and healed. The man wanted to travel with Jesus, but Jesus told him to go home and tell people about what Jesus did. The man obeyed.

Jesus died on the cross for our sin and rose again on the third day. When we believe in Him, we receive forgiveness from God and are transformed into new creatures with hearts that love God. One day Jesus will return to fix the earth once and for all. Until then, we are like the man Jesus healed. He has commanded us to tell others about what He did for us. *What did Jesus heal people from? Jesus healed people from sickness, sin, and death.*

### OPTION 2: Memory chains

Provide three to five construction paper strips to each kid. Encourage them to write down key parts of the story they want to remember. Then help them form interconnected loops with their strips to form a chain to take home.

- construction paper strips
- tape
- markers or pens

**SAY** • Before Jesus met the man with evil spirits, he seemed too powerful to control. People had tried to tie him up with chains, but he broke free. But Jesus was able to control him. Even the evil spirits knew they had to obey Jesus. **Jesus healed a man with many evil spirits**, and He can heal us from sickness, sin and death.

### **Journal and prayer (5 minutes)**

Distribute each child's journal. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture of something they are afraid of. Discuss why they are afraid of it, and remind them of Jesus' power.

**SAY** • **Jesus healed a man with many evil spirits.** Jesus is more powerful than anyone else. Nothing can stop Him. He has promised to save those who believe in Him and one day we know He will return to remove evil forever. Even when we feel afraid, we can trust Jesus to protect us from sin and give us eternal life.

Make sure each child secures this week's sheet in the journal, and then collect them. Keep the journals in the classroom so they will be available every week or as often as you wish to use them.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray, asking God to help your kids trust Him in hard times. Praise Him for His power over evil and for sending Jesus to defeat sin and death.

- markers or crayons
- Journal Page
- Bible story coloring 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.