

Snapshots of Jesus Casts Out Evil Spirits

Checklist:

Optional: Ahead of time, send this week's info and family devos to the parents

Scary Things Discussion:

Ask:

- What are scary things that come to your mind when you think: "Halloween"?
- Has anyone ever been really scared?

Mark 5:1-20:

Say: Today we're going to look at a snapshot from Jesus' life that has to do with evil and people being afraid...

Read Mark 5:1-5 (while youth follow along in Bibles.)

Ask:

- Anything scary about this story?
- What would you have been thinking if you were a disciple with Jesus?

Read Mark 5:6-10 (while they follow along)

Ask: How did the demons respond to Jesus?

Say:

- From how he's described (crying out, couldn't be chained, breaking chains) the guy would've been really strong and scary! (Right?)...
- Nobody was able to contain him.
- Nobody was powerful enough to deal with the man possessed by evil spirits.

- Thinking about the power of the man and the demons could be pretty scary.
- But, when you look at what happened, the demons were begging Jesus not to send them away!
- Perhaps even thousands of demons.
- (The demon said it was “legion” - a legion in an army might be around 5,500 to 6,000. Of course the demon might have been exaggerating, but they did destroy about 2000 pigs.)
- It says they begged Him “again and again” not to send them away (Luke says “into the Abyss”).

Read Mark 5:11-17 (while people follow along)

Ask:

- What happened?
- How did the herdsmen respond?
- When the people heard and saw what had happened, what did they ask Jesus to do? Why?

Say:

- It wasn't a big struggle or fight between Jesus and the demons.
- They begged Him not to torture them! They begged Him to send them into the pigs.
- They awaited His permission.

Read Mark 5:18-20 (while everyone follows along)

Ask:

- How would you have felt if you were the man who was freed?
- Look at verse 18. How did the man respond?
- What did Jesus tell him to do and what did he do?
- How's that a good example for us?

What We See about Jesus

Ask: What does this event show about Jesus?

Be sure students notice:

- *it showed Jesus' authority over demons*
- *it showed Jesus' mercy (In verse 19 Jesus said to tell others what “the Lord” had done and how he showed mercy. In verse 20 it says the man told what “Jesus” had done.)*

→ *Can also mention that it seems this happened right after Jesus calmed the storm on the lake, showing his **authority over creation**, as well. The disciples had been afraid because they thought they might drown, then Jesus calmed the storm and they were afraid about that!*

Relating it to Our Lives:

Say:

- So, how does this event we looked at from Mark relate to our lives?...
- We should realize that Satan, demons, and evil are real.
- It's not just made up stuff for Halloween or movies.
- Demons are evil and destroy - like they were doing to the man Jesus rescued.
- We shouldn't play with evil or satanic stuff like Ouija boards, tarot cards, Wicca, movies that promote evil or witchcraft or other sinful things...
- The Bible says witchcraft is evil and that we shouldn't have any fellowship with darkness.

Ask: If we are Christians, do we need to be afraid of demons? Why or why not?

Be sure this info is understood during discussion:

- If we are Christians, we don't have to be afraid of demons.
- God is way more powerful!
- Jesus - the Son of God - had the ability to tell demons what to do on earth.
- God has way more authority than demons and can tell them what to do!
- And, the Bible says that one day He will cast them all into the lake of fire.

Say:

- Here are three more thoughts, as we think about what we've talked about tonight...
1. If you're tempted or scared as a Christian, remember...
 - James 4:7 says: "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."
 - And, remember that, as Christians, we have the Holy Spirit in us to help us.
 2. We might think someone possessed by demons or caught up sin might be hopeless.
 - But God is much more powerful!
 - We can pray for Him to work to free people that might be influenced by evil spirits or sin.
 - Just like the man Jesus helped was transformed, God can transform people today.
 3. If you're a Christian, follow the man's example and tell people what Jesus has done for you!
 - You may not have seemed as bad off as the man we looked at today.
 - Apart from Christ, you were a slave to sin and bound for hell.
 - You can tell others what Jesus did to save you and how God has worked in your life.

If You're Not a Christian:

Say:

- If you're not a Christian...
 - You may not be as bad off as the man who Jesus helped.
 - But, you deserve punishment for sin and need to be forgiven.
 - Maybe you even recognize that you are a slave to sin.
 - Ask God to save you and forgive you of your sin by Jesus' death on the cross.
 - He is merciful and He is able.
 - If you believe God to save you by Jesus' death on the cross for your sins, you will be saved.
-
- If you've trusted Jesus to save you from your sin, or if you have questions, talk to me or someone else today!

Closing Prayer

References:

David E Garland, Comment on Mark 5:1-20, *Zondervan Illustrated Bible Background Commentary: Mark*, Gen Ed Clinton E Arnold (Zondervan, 2002)

William L Lane, Comment on Mark 5:1-20, *The New International Commentary on the New Testament: The Gospel of Mark*, Gen Ed Gordon D Fee (William B Eerdmans, 1974).

J Vernon McGee, "Commentary on Mark 5:1-13". *"Thru the Bible' with Dr. J. Vernon McGee"*.
<https://www.studydrive.org/commentaries/ttb/mark-5.html>. 2008.

All Scriptures are quoted from the English Standard Version (unless noted otherwise).

This lesson copied or adapted from [YouthBibleLessons.org](https://www.YouthBibleLessons.org). See YouthBibleLessons.org Lessons page for copying/adapting terms.

YOUTH GROUP THIS WEEK!

This Sunday night, the youth group will be looking at a “snapshot” of Jesus’ life from Mark 5:1-20. Here is a devotion time you can do as a family within the next few days after youth group...

Follow-up Family Devotion Time

1. Read Mark 5:1-20 together.
2. What would you have been thinking if you were Jesus’ disciples? The pig herders? The town people? The man who was healed?
3. Is there a way you would like to experience God’s power over sin in your life or the lives of someone around you?*
4. If you are a Christian, who’s someone you could share what God has done for you?

*We often struggle with temptation and sin and can ask God to help us overcome it through His power. If you or someone you know is not a Christian, you can pray for God to give freedom from Satan or sin’s hold. He is way more powerful! Jesus died on the cross to save people from sin and all who rely on God to save them by faith will be saved.