

Text: Mark 5:1-20

Big Idea: Jesus crosses to the other side to rescue the person everyone else avoided, proves He is greater than the darkness, and sends rescued people back with a story to tell.

Opening Icebreaker

When have you ever been glad someone came looking for you, helped you, or showed up when you needed them?

Leader hint: Keep this personal and light. The goal is to prepare the group to think about Jesus crossing the lake for one hurting man, not to force anyone into a heavy story right away.

Read Together

Read Mark 5:1-20 aloud. Invite the group to listen for three things: what evil does, what Jesus does, and what Jesus tells the restored man to do.

Discussion Questions

1. The sermon began by saying Mark 5 is not first a story about demons, but a story meant to build our confidence in Jesus. Why is that distinction important?

Leader hint: Help the group avoid both extremes: obsessing over demons or dismissing spiritual darkness altogether. Bring the focus back to Jesus being greater.

2. In verses 1-5, what details show how isolated and hopeless this man's situation had become? What does this reveal about the destructive nature of evil?

Leader hint: Point to the tombs, chains, crying out, self-harm, and separation from community. Be careful not to equate all mental illness with demon possession; the broader point is that evil dehumanizes and destroys.

3. The message said, 'Jesus gets out of the boat for people everyone else avoids.' Where do you see that in the passage, and what does it teach us about the heart of Jesus?

Leader hint: Emphasize that Jesus moves toward the man, not away from him. Ask where people today might feel avoided, labeled, or written off.

4. In verses 6-13, Legion recognizes Jesus and begs. What does this part of the story teach us about the authority of Jesus?

Leader hint: The demons know who Jesus is and know they cannot win. Jesus is not in an equal fight with darkness; He is Lord.

5. When the townspeople see the man restored, they are afraid and ask Jesus to leave. Why do you think people sometimes resist Jesus even after seeing His power?

Leader hint: The pigs represent cost and disruption. Jesus saves, but He also rearranges. Gently ask where people may want Jesus close, but not close enough to touch a certain habit, wound, relationship, or priority.

6. Jesus tells the restored man to go home and tell what the Lord had done for him. Who are your 'own people' right now, and what part of your story of God's mercy could you tell them?

Leader hint: Keep this practical. The man did not have years of training; he had mercy and a story. Encourage simple, honest witness rather than pressure to have every answer.

Closing Reflection

- The man wanted to get in the boat with Jesus, but Jesus sent him back home with a story to tell.
- Where might Jesus be asking you to "get out of the boat" this week?
- What would it look like to simply tell someone what the Lord has done for you?

Prayer

Before you close, ask for prayer requests and pray for your group. Pray especially that the group would trust that Jesus is greater than the darkness, receive His mercy personally, and have courage to go home and tell what the Lord has done.

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