Leader DEVOTIONAL

Leaders: this is just for you! Read ahead of time to engage with the Bible story on an adult level and prepare your heart to teach on Sunday.

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.
Bible Passage: Mark 5:1-20
Main Point: Jesus healed a man with many evil spirits.
Key Passage: Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all his benefits...who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases. Psalm 103:2-3
Unit 24 Big Picture Question: What did Jesus heal people from? Jesus healed people from sickness, sin and death.

The BIBLE STORY

Jesus Has Power Over Evil

Mark 5:1-20

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.

Bible Storytelling Tips

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.
Club 345 Small Groups | August 20, 2017

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**Small Group OPENING**

**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?

**Key passage activity**

- **Key Passage Poster**
- paper
- scissors
- pen
- balloons

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!

**Session starter**

**Option 1: Animal guessing game**

- index cards
- marker

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
Unit 24 Session 2: Jesus Has Power Over Evil

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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
**Unit 24 Session 2: Jesus Has Power Over Evil**

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**Small Group LEADER**

**Bible story review & Bible skills**

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

Say • Raise your hand if you had heard this Bible story before today.

Whether you’ve heard a Bible story one time or a hundred times, there is always something new that we can learn. God’s Word is living and active, so there is always more that God can reveal about Himself through what we read in Scripture! Let’s review some of the details from today’s story.

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.

Review the gospel with boys and girls. Explain that kids are welcome to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. (Feel free to use the GOSPEL visual aid from your class bulletin board.)
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Engage

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:

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

construction paper strips

tape

markers or pens

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.

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.
Engage and prayer time

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Encourage kids to write 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.

Take prayer requests and then 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.

Closing and Pick-Up

After prayer time is done, continue any unfinished activities until parents arrive.

Send each kid home with this week's Big Picture Card so kids and their parents can interact with the biblical content at home.