

LifeGroups

“Jesus Heals”

Mark 5:1-20

Our church is studying the gospel of Mark each Sunday and discussing it through the week in Life Groups. The series is titled “The Cross-Shaped Life.” We hope you are finding these weekly sermon discussion questions to be a helpful tool to remember and apply what you hear from the pulpit.

This week's main point: *In Mark 4:41 the disciples had asked concerning Jesus, “Who is this?” Little by little, they have been gaining an understanding of the character, power, and mission of Jesus, but they still have a long way to go. In this week's passage Jesus reveals himself to the disciples, and to us, as Lord over death. He casts a legion of demons out of a man who lived in the realm of death. When someone repents and trusts in Jesus for salvation, he or she is delivered from the curse and fear of death and invited into a new life of communion with Jesus and service to others.*

Share

This week we will read the story of a man possessed of the devil. The Bible speaks plainly about Satan. How do you see Satan's activity around you in our world today?

Study

- 1. Read Mark 5:1-20.*
- 2. What details does Mark give us about the demon-possessed man that show how desperate is his condition?*
- 3. What is the meaning and significance of the man's name, Legion?*
- 4. How does the cry of the demonic spirit in verse 7 compare with what another demon had said in Mark 1:23-24? How does it contrast with the attitude of the Pharisees toward Jesus in Mark 3:22? Explain the fact that Satan gets Jesus' identity right yet lives in utter rebellion against him.*
- 5. What is the man's response to his healing by Jesus? How does his response contrast with that of the townspeople?*
- 6. Why were the townspeople afraid (vs. 15) rather than overjoyed at the healing of their compatriot?*

7. *In verse 17, the people of the town ask Jesus to leave their region. In the next verse he gets in the boat and leaves. What does this mean for people today who don't want Jesus to mess with their lives?*

See Jesus

1. *Last week we read about Jesus' wild ride across the Sea of Galilee. Next week we will find him crossing it again and going back to Capernaum. So why did Jesus come to the country of the Gerasenes? What does that tell you about the mission of Jesus?*
2. *Read carefully verses 19-20. Do you see how these verses throw light on the divine character of Jesus?*
3. *Notice how Jesus restored the demon-possessed man: he was "sitting there, clothed and in his right mind" (vs. 15). What does that tell you about the nature of Christ's mission in the world?*
4. *How can Jesus be both an object of fear and an object of faith?*

Send

1. *What role does the fear of God play in your life? Is it a healthy fear that produces worship, repentance, and confident trust? Or is it a distorted fear that makes you keep your distance from him?*

2. *How does Jesus' words to the man in verse 19 ("Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done for you") challenge you? What could you do this week to put that verse into action?*

3. *Imagine you have no more than two minutes to tell an unbeliever how God has had mercy on you. What would you say?*

Supplicate

- ◆ *Mark 5:1-20 gives us every reason to ask Jesus boldly to pour out his restorative Spirit upon us, our community, and the nations. Ask him to break the chains of sin and Satan that are destroying lives today. Pray that we'll faithfully tell others how much the Lord has done for us.*
- ◆ *Pray for UPC's Stephen Ministry. The Stephen Ministry Open House is Thursday evening. Ask God to use SM to make us more of a caring church.*
- ◆ *This coming Friday and Saturday, several UPC members will be going through Conflict Coaching training. Pray that the experience will benefit not only them but our whole church.*
- ◆ *Pray for our church of the week: Avalon Church*
- ◆ *Pray for our missionary of the week: Devon Jankowski - Cru Missions*
- ◆ *Pray for our unreached people group of the week: Geruma of Nigeria*