



**Week Five: Mark 5**

**“The Power of Going and Inviting”**

Reading and Study Guide for the  
Week of May 14-21, 2023

**Memory Verse for the Gospel of Mark:** *Jesus called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”* (Mark 8:34)

**This week, read Mark 5.** On Sunday, May 21, Pastor Doug will preach on the theme, **“The Power of Going and Inviting”** (Mark 5:1-20). A message that is emphasized in the Book of Mark is Jesus going to people in need and inviting them to follow Him and calling them to go to invite others. In Mark 5, Jesus goes to Gerasenes and encounters a demon possessed man where Jesus heals him and shows his power over evil. After the miracle, Jesus tells the man to “Go home to your friends and tell them how much the Lord has done.” (Mark 5:18). Today, who we have been invited into God’s Kingdom by Jesus, have the privilege to reach out and invite others to follow.

**Some questions to answer and think about this week with your family or Community Group**

1. When was the last time you had such wonderful news that you could not wait to tell someone about it?
2. What makes people resistant to talking about God or religion?
3. To what Gentile (non-Jewish) area did Jesus and His disciples go? How? ([5:1](#))
4. Who went out to meet Jesus? ([5:2](#))
5. What was the man’s life like before he met Jesus? ([5:3-5](#))
6. How had the townspeople coped with the demon-possessed man Jesus met? ([5:4](#))
7. How did the demon-possessed man react to Jesus? ([5:6-7](#))
8. Why were the demons so terrified of Jesus? ([5:7](#))
9. What did Jesus do to help the demon-possessed man? ([5:8-20](#))
10. How did news of this event spread? ([5:14-16](#))
11. What was the man’s life like after Jesus ordered the demons out of him? ([5:15-20](#))
12. What request did Jesus deny? Why? ([5:18-19](#))
13. What can we do to overcome resistance to the message of Christ?
14. What can you do this week to bring the message of Christ to a friend or coworker?

## Life Application Bible Notes

**5:1, 2** Although we cannot be sure why demon possession occurs, we know that evil spirits can use the human body to distort and destroy people's relationship with God and likeness to him. Even today, demons are dangerous, powerful, and destructive. While it is important to recognize their evil activity, we should avoid any curiosity about or involvement with demonic forces or the occult ([Deuteronomy 18:10-12](#)). If we resist the devil and his influences, he will flee from us ([James 4:7](#)).

**5:7** The demon screamed at Jesus, "Why are you interfering with me?" It was a shriek of fear, defense, and rebellion against God. No one today would like to admit to being demon possessed, but most of our society, like the demon, is screaming at God, the church, and Christian values, "Why are you interfering with me? Get out of my life!" When people reject Jesus Christ and his authority, they put themselves on the side of the demons and are heading in the same direction. Every person must ask: Will I choose autonomy and self-will leading to destruction, or will I choose Christ's loving leadership over my life, giving me forgiveness, healing from sin, cleansing, and true freedom? The answer has eternal implications.

**5:9** The evil spirit said its name was Legion. A legion was the largest unit of the Roman army, consisting of 3,000 to 6,000 soldiers. This man was possessed by many demons.

**5:10** Mark often highlights the supernatural struggle between Jesus and Satan. The demons' goal was to control the humans they inhabited; Jesus' goal was to give people freedom from sin and Satan's control. The demons knew they had no power over Jesus, so they simply begged not to be sent to some distant place ("the bottomless pit" in [Luke 8:31](#)). Jesus granted their request to enter into the herd of pigs ([5:13](#)), but ended their destructive work in people. Perhaps Jesus let the demons destroy the pigs to demonstrate his own superiority over a very powerful yet destructive force.

**5:17** After such a wonderful miracle of saving a man's life, why did the people want Jesus to leave? They were undoubtedly afraid of his supernatural power. They may have also feared that Jesus would continue destroying their pigs—their livelihood. They would rather give up Jesus than lose their source of income and security.

**5:19** Jesus told this man to tell his friends about the miraculous healing. Most of the time, Jesus urged those he healed to keep quiet. Why the difference? (1) The demon-possessed man had been alone and unable to speak. Telling others what Jesus did for him would prove that he was healed. (2) This was mainly a Gentile and pagan area, so Jesus was not expecting great crowds to follow him or religious leaders to hinder him. (3) By sending the man away with this good news, Jesus was expanding his ministry to people who were not Jews.

**5:19, 20** This man had been demon possessed but became a living example of Jesus' power. He wanted to go with Jesus, but Jesus told him to go home and share his story with his friends. If you have experienced Jesus' power in your life, are you, like this man, enthusiastically sharing the good news with those around you? Just as we would tell others about a doctor who cured a physical disease, we should tell about Christ who cures our sin.