

24. Evil Spirits Sent into a Herd of Pigs

The Word of the Lord: The New Testament for Young Children

Notes for Parents & Teachers

24. Evil Spirits Sent into a Herd of Pigs

- a) First, ask children to picture what a totally unusual event this is. First, the man was insane. You need to tell children that when someone is as insane as this, he is very strong and may do terrible things, like cutting himself. Tell them that in those days the evil spirits could take control of a man like this and make him do these things. But it cannot happen like this now, because the Lord came on earth to stop things like this.
- b) Depending on your children, they may ask about people who have mental problems. Tell them that today the evil spirits can't absolutely control people like they did this man, but of course evil spirits can make any of us *want* to do bad things. The difference is that we *can* stop. If a person has mental problems, it's harder, and counselors try to teach them how to stop. In those days, such people couldn't stop because the hells were so strong.
- c) This may be more than children want to talk about, so don't push it too hard, just tell them that the evil spirits can't do this very bad thing anymore because the Lord came on earth and conquered them.
- d) The people knew they couldn't stop this man with evil spirits. Then all of a sudden, he ran to Jesus and bent to worship Him. Who was really worshipping Him? The devils who knew the Lord was going to throw them out of the man.
- e) Explain what "My name is Legion" means. A legion was three to six thousand soldiers.

- f) The devils wanted to go into the pigs. But because they were crazy devils, the moment they went into the pigs the pigs went crazy and ran into the sea. Can children picture how the people there felt? They'd never seen anything like this so it frightened them, and they asked the Lord to leave.
- g) The man who was healed wanted to follow the Lord, but He told him to go back to his life and tell people what an amazing thing had happened to him. Sometimes the Lord would tell a person not to say anything, but this time He wanted the people in that land to know more about Him.



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The Lord Rescues a Man from Evil Spirits

And Jesus and His disciples came over to the other side of the sea. And when Jesus came out of the ship, a man from out of the caves, who was troubled by an evil spirit, met Him there. No one had the strength to help the man. He lived among the caves. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, crying and cutting himself with stones.

And when he saw Jesus, the man ran and worshiped Him and cried with a loud voice. Then Jesus said to the evil spirit who was in the man, “Come out of this man.” Jesus asked the evil spirit, “What is your name?” And he answered saying, “My name is Legion for we are many.” And he begged Jesus that He would not send him away out of the country.

Now there was near the mountains a great herd of pigs feeding. And all the devils begged Jesus saying, “Send us into the swine.” And at once Jesus gave them permission. Then the evil spirits went out of the man and entered into the swine that numbered about two thousand. Then the swine ran down a steep cliff into the sea, and they were drowned.

The men who fed the swine ran away, and they told what had happened, in the city and in the country. Then the people came out to see. And they came to Jesus and saw the man sitting with Jesus. He was dressed and in his right mind.

Then the people were afraid. And they began to beg Jesus to go away from their land. So when Jesus had gone back onto the ship, the man begged Jesus that he might go with Him. But Jesus said to him, “Go home to your friends and tell them what great things the Lord has done for you.”

Mark 5

