

General Church Education



# The Demon Possessed Man

Mark 5:1-20

## Lesson 17

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 1: The Lord Is Our Creator

For ages 6-7 years

## THE DEMON POSSESSED MAN

MARK 5:1-20

At the time when the Lord came into the world the devils had a strong hold on humankind. They were even able to possess a person and control the movements of his or her body. They could force a person to injure themselves or others. This possession by demons was at times so strong that it threatened to take away people's freedom to choose a good life leading to heaven.

The Lord would never allow devils to destroy a person's freedom to choose heaven. This is one of the main reasons He came into the world. The miracle in today's story shows one of the things that the Lord did to permanently end the ability of the devils to control people in such an external way.

### IDEAS FOR PARENTS & TEACHERS

- The Lord has power over evil spirits and over hell.
- The Lord preserves our ability to choose the course of our spiritual life. He does the same for our children. We can help our children to remember that everyone always has the opportunity to choose to follow the Lord.
- The hells, by means of evil spirits, will try to convince us to follow them. The hells will try to give us the false notion that we have no chance to change for the better. The Lord's Word tells us otherwise.

### FROM THE WRITINGS

The name of the Lord spiritually understood means everything of doctrine out of the Word from the Lord, and demons are falsities of every kind; and these are thus cast out, that is, removed by means of doctrine out of the Word from the Lord. *Apocalypse Explained* 706

Nowadays external obsession is not allowed as it once was in former times. *Arcana Coelestia* 1983.4

There are no cases of external possession at the present day. *Arcana Coelestia* 5990.2

## THE DEMON POSSESSED MAN

### IMPORTANT IDEAS

The Lord has all power, and therefore power over demons or devils.

He came into the world to remove the power evil spirits had to control people.

The Lord protects our freedom to choose to follow Him.

In our last lesson we read about the Lord's trip across the Sea of Galilee. Today's story tells about what happened when the Lord got to the other side of the sea. There were steep, rocky cliffs and hills where the Lord got out of the boat. There were many caves in the rocks. Some of these caves were used as tombs or graves for burying the dead. It was a wild and deserted place.



There was a man living in this wilderness who had been tormented by demons or unclean spirits for a long time. The demons had taken control of the man's body and made him live in the tombs without any clothes. They caused him to hurt himself with stones and to cry out. When people tried to chain him, the evil spirits made him strong enough to break away. No one could help him to become calm. People were afraid of him. Read Mark 5:1-5.

The demons or devils recognized the Lord when He came near to the man. The Word tells us that they called the Lord by name, even though they had never seen Him before. The demons were afraid and asked the Lord not to "torment" them. This is because they wanted to keep tormenting the man, making his life miserable. The Lord would not allow this. He told them that they must "Come out!" Read Mark 5:6-8.

The Lord asked the man his name. The demons answered through the man's voice "My name is Legion; for we are many." The demons were afraid of being sent out of the country or far away. They begged the Lord to send them into a nearby herd of swine or pigs. As we read the story listen to see how many pigs

were in the herd. Also, listen to what the devils made the swine do after the Lord sent them out of the man. Read Mark 5:9-13.

The Lord allowed the devils to destroy the herd of swine because He wanted people to see how great His power was to help them overcome evil spirits, no matter how many there were.

In our last story we learned that the disciples were so amazed by the Lord's power over nature when He calmed the storm, that they were afraid. We find in today's story that the people who saw the miraculous healing of the demon-possessed man were also afraid of the Lord's power. He had cast many devils out of one man. Those who fed the swine and looked after them fled, or ran away, and told everyone what had happened.

Listen to the story to hear what the people asked Jesus to do after they saw that the demon-possessed man was healed and "in his right mind." Read Mark 5:14-18.

The people who lived in that place were so afraid of the Lord's power that they begged Him to depart or go away. The man who had been healed begged the Lord to take him with Him, but the Lord wanted the man to go back to his own home. The Lord wanted the man to tell everyone about his miraculous healing. The man did as he was told, and the Lord became even more famous because of this great miracle. Read Mark 5:16-20.



## DISCUSSION

- Imagine what it would be like to have someone or something controlling your body and making you do things that you didn't want to do. It would be a terrible feeling. It would be especially terrible if you were made to do very bad things that you wouldn't normally do.
- Before the Lord came into the world, evil spirits could take control of a person's body. They made them hurt other people and themselves. It was hard for a person to choose to do what was right. This is one of the reasons that the Lord came into the world. He wanted to release people from the power of evil spirits so they could be free to choose to do good things.
- Today's miracle shows us one of the ways that the Lord forever stopped the demons or evil spirits from being able to totally possess a person. The Lord will never allow anyone to have the sad experience of the man in the story. We can now choose to do what is right. We can choose to keep the demons away from us and follow the Lord and His Word.
- We might ask "How many devils would it take to beat the Lord?" This is really a trick question. Do you remember how many swine there were in the story? (*Two thousand.*)
- The truth is that no amount of devils could ever beat the Lord. No matter how many there might be, the Lord is stronger. This is one of the important things that we can learn about the Lord in this miracle.
- What kind of power did the Lord show in today's story of healing the demon-possessed man? (*Power over the devils.*)
- We can remember that the Lord always uses this power to protect us.



# THE DEMON POSSESSED MAN | Activities

## Recitation

- Learn the recitation.

Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.



Matthew 11:28-30

When the recitation has been learned, give children the recitation picture on the last page of this lesson, and a sticker, e.g. a star, to decorate it.

## Song

- Love Divine, all Loves Excelling  
Listen at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/song-love-divine-all-loves-excelling/>

## Projects

- Pig Punching Balloons
- Picture to color

## Pig Punching Balloons

We are sometimes overwhelmed by evil spirits just like the man who was possessed by demons in the story. Evil spirits may urge us to do things that are selfish. In order to prepare for heaven we must learn to stop behaving selfishly. When we do this the Lord removes selfishness from inside of us as well as from the behaviors that others see (see *Divine Providence* 100).

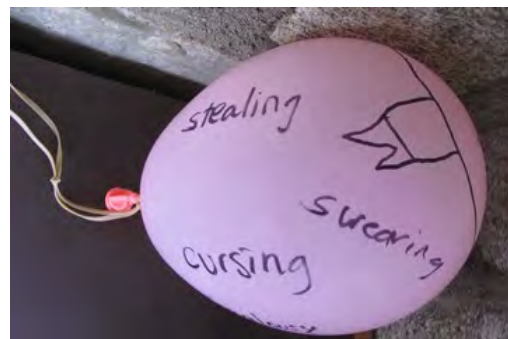
Decorate a pink balloon to look like a pig and write hurtful things that we should try to get rid of on it. Then attach rubber bands to the neck of the balloon and punch the balloon to send the evils away.

### Supplies needed

- one pink balloon (other colors work fine too)
- thin black permanent marker
- 3 rubber bands

### Supplies needed

1. The evil spirits who were with the man asked the Lord to send them into a herd of pigs that were feeding nearby. Start by decorating the balloon with the black permanent marker to look like a pig.
2. Inflate the balloon. The tie at the neck of the balloon is like the pig's tail. Draw pig ears, eyes, snout, and legs on the balloon. See *Pig Drawing Ideas* for inspiration.
3. We write the names of hurtful things we want to send away on the balloons, for example lies, stealing, hurting others, hitting, etc.
4. Connect the 3 rubber bands together by looping one through another.
5. Fasten the chain of rubber bands to the neck of the balloon.
6. Hold the rubber band chain and punch the evils on the balloon away!



Pig Drawing Ideas







# Recitation Award | Lessons 15, 16, 17

