

JESUS FREES A DEMON-POSSESSED MAN

KEY VERSE: *“Go home to your own people,” Jesus said, “and tell them what the Lord has done for you and how he has shown you mercy.”*
 —Mark 5:19 (CEB)

Act It Out Bingo

Mingle with other students to learn things about each other. However, there is one catch: No one can talk aloud or write. You can use only hand motions and act out the answers. The first person to achieve three matches in a row—across, down, or diagonally—wins.

FAVORITE TV SHOW	FAVORITE MUSICIAN	BORN IN THE SAME MONTH
FAVORITE COLOR	FAVORITE SPORT	FAVORITE MOVIE
SAME NUMBER OF SIBLINGS	SAME BIRTH ORDER	BORN IN SAME STATE

Was it hard finding new information about everyone? What did you discover about your classmates that you didn’t know? Were you surprised by anything you learned?

MARK 5:1-20 (NRSV)

- 1 They came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gerasenes.
- 2 And when he had stepped out of the boat, immediately a man out of the tombs with an unclean spirit met him.
- 3 He lived among the tombs; and no one could restrain him any

- more, even with a chain;
- 4** for he had often been restrained with shackles and chains, but the chains he wrenched apart, and the shackles he broke in pieces; and no one had the strength to subdue him.
- 5** Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always howling and bruising himself with stones.
- 6** When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and bowed down before him;
- 7** and he shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me."
- 8** For he had said to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!"
- 9** Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion; for we are many."
- 10** He begged him earnestly not to send them out of the country.
- 11** Now there on the hillside a great herd of swine was feeding;
- 12** and the unclean spirits begged him, "Send us into the swine; let us enter them."
- 13** So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine; and the herd, numbering about two thousand, rushed down the steep bank into the sea, and were drowned in the sea.
- 14** The swineherds ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came to see what it was that had happened.
- 15** They came to Jesus and saw the demoniac sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the legion; and they were afraid.
- 16** Those who had seen what had happened to the demoniac and to the swine reported it.
- 17** Then they began to beg Jesus to leave their neighborhood.
- 18** As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed by demons begged him that he might be with him.
- 19** But Jesus refused, and said to him, "Go home to your friends, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and what mercy he has shown you."
- 20** And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed.

A CHANGE OF HEART

- ❖ In the Bible verses, underline the bad behavior displayed by the demon-

possessed man. ❖ How would you respond if you met someone acting out like this man? ❖ How did Jesus respond differently? ❖ In what ways did the man change after he was freed from the demons? ❖ How did his physical appearance change?

LEFT OUT

- Brainstorm different pop-culture characters who have been shunned because of how they looked or acted. (i.e. Beauty and the Beast, Shrek, etc.)
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- In the stories, who changed—the persons who were shunned or the people who shunned them?
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- What inspired this change? _____

- What does this tell you about the people with whom you interact?
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INTO THE PIGS

- Write three or four words that come to mind when you think about the torment the man in this story experienced.
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- If Jesus appeared to you and offered to free you from things that torment you, what would those things be?

MODELING HOSPITALITY

“Loving God, we look around us at the people who are so different from us—they act differently, they pray differently, they live differently, they think differently. Yet all are your precious children, created in your image. Show us how to be hospitable by spending time with them, listening to them, being generous to them, working toward their well-being, and seeing them as more than their past actions. Give us the grace to accept that this is hard but important work. Amen.”