

JESUS CASTS OUT DEMONS

One day, our Lord Jesus met a man who had demons. He did not wear clothes. He lived in the tombs. The demons made him strong and not safe to be with.

When the man saw Jesus, the demons made him yell, "What do I have to do with you, Jesus, God's Son? Leave me alone!"

Jesus asked the man what his name was. The man said, "Legion." (A legion is a large group or army.) He said this was his name because so many demons were in him.

Jesus told the demons to leave the man. He told them to go into a nearby herd of pigs. The demons came out of the man and went into the pigs. The whole herd went rushing down the steep bank into the lake and they drowned.

The people watching the pigs saw what had happened. They ran to town and told other people. These people went to see Jesus. They saw the man who had demons sitting at Jesus' feet. He was wearing clothes. He was talking in a normal voice. This made the people very afraid. They asked Jesus to leave.

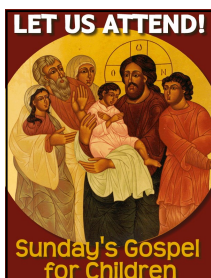
As Jesus got into a boat to leave, the man begged to come along. He wanted to be with Jesus. But Jesus told him to go home and tell all that God had done for him.



Icon courtesy of Iconographics (www.theologic.com)

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Who did Jesus meet? What was wrong with him?
2. Where did Jesus tell the demons that were in the man to go? Did the demons obey?
3. Jesus made the man well again. What did the man want to do? What did Jesus tell him to do?
4. Tell about something that God has done for you.



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Pre-12



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Materials:

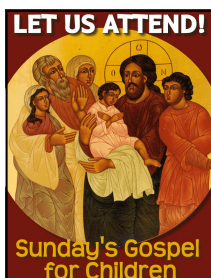
- * craft sticks
- * light colored construction paper
- * crayons, colored pencils, and/or markers
- * glue
- * ribbon or string



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Procedure:

1. After reading the gospel story to your child, take time to review the discussion questions following the story.
2. Remind your child that God does many things for us every day. We may not ask God to help us, but He still does, just like He helped the man named "Legion". Name some things that God has done for you in your life. Encourage your child to name some things that God has done for them in their life. Decide on four of these examples that your child can illustrate for the craft.
3. Cut a piece of construction paper in half.
4. Using the craft sticks, glue a "frame" around the piece of construction paper. On the shorter sides, allow about 1/2" of the craft sticks to stick out from the paper.
5. Hold the framed paper horizontally. At the top of the paper, assist your child in printing the words, "Look what God does for ME!" You may choose to write the words in pencil and allow your child to trace the letters using a fine marker.
6. In the center of the paper, ask your child to draw a picture of themselves.
7. Draw four lines (like sunshine rays) coming from the picture of your child.
8. At the end of each of those lines, have your child draw a picture of what you discussed earlier (the four things that God has done for them).
9. Color the drawings.
10. Using a piece of string or ribbon, tie either end of the string to the top corners of the craft stick frame.
11. Your child may hang their picture in a special place.
12. Once you have completed the craft, stand in front of the family icon corner and say a prayer, thanking God for all that He has done for you and your child. Remind your child to thank God often for all His help in our lives!



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Jesus told the demons to leave the man. He told them to go into a nearby herd of pigs. The demons came out of the man and went into the pigs. The whole herd went rushing down the steep bank into the lake and they drowned.

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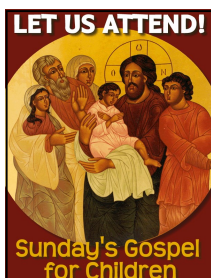
As Jesus got into a boat to leave, the man begged to come along. He wanted to be with Jesus. But Jesus told him to go home and tell all that God had done for him.



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Who did Jesus meet? What was wrong with him?
2. Where did Jesus tell the demons that were in the man to go? Did the demons obey?
3. Jesus made the man well again. What did the man want to do? What did Jesus tell him to do?
4. Tell about something that God has done for you.



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THE GADARENE DEMONIAK

At that time, Jesus arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. And as he stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons; for a long time he had worn no clothes, and he lived not in a house but among the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, and said with a loud voice, "What have I to do with you, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beseech you, do not torment me." For Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. [For many a time it had seized him; he was kept under guard, and bound with chains and fetters, but he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness.] Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. And they begged Jesus not to command them to depart into the abyss.

Now a large herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside; and they begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them leave. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled, and told it in the city and in the country. Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the

demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. And those who had seen it told them how he who had been possessed with demons was healed.

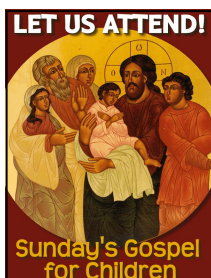
Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gadarenes asked Jesus to depart from them; for they were seized with great fear; so he got into a boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with Jesus; but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare all the God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming through the whole city all that Jesus had done for him.



Image courtesy of sxc.hu

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What was unusual about the man Jesus met at the country of the Gadarenes? What did he do when he met Jesus?
2. Why did the man say his name was Legion?
3. What did the demons beg Jesus about? Did He grant them their wish?
4. Why do you think the people who came were afraid? What did they ask Jesus to do?
5. Why do you think the man wanted to go with Jesus? What did Jesus tell him to do instead?
6. Tell someone about something that Jesus has done for you.



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Characters: Narrator, Jesus, Man

Narrator: At that time, Jesus arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, which is opposite Galilee. And as he stepped out on land, there met him a man from the city who had demons; for a long time he had worn no clothes, and he lived not in a house but among the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, and said with a loud voice,

Man: What have I to do with you, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beseech you, do not torment me.

Narrator: For Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. [For many a time it had seized him; he was kept under guard, and bound with chains and fetters, but he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the wilderness.] Jesus then asked him,

Jesus: What is your name?

Narrator: And he said,

Man: Legion

Narrator: For many demons had entered him. And they begged Jesus not to command them to depart into the abyss.

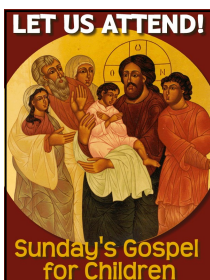
Now a large herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside; and they begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them leave. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they fled, and told it in the city and in the country. Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. And those who had seen it told them how he who had been possessed with demons was healed.

Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gadarenes asked Jesus to depart from them; for they were seized with great fear; so he got into a boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with Jesus; but Jesus sent him away, saying,

Jesus: Return to your home, and declare all the God has done for you.

Narrator: And he went away, proclaiming through the whole city all that Jesus had done for him.



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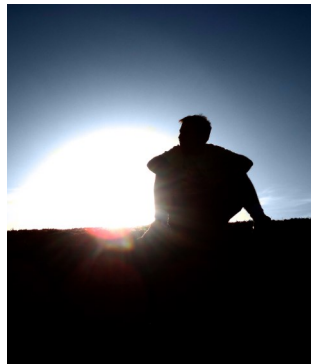


Image courtesy of sxc.hu

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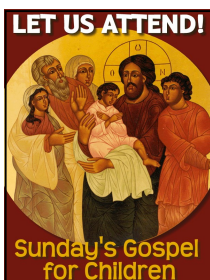
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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What does the man do after Jesus sends the demons away?
2. Why do you think he does this?
3. What might this tell us about what we are meant to do?
4. What can you do this week to "sit at the feet of Jesus" like the man in this gospel?



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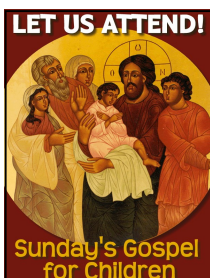
Image courtesy of sxc.hu

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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. What does the formerly demon possessed man beg Jesus to let him do?
2. Why do you think he wants to be with Jesus?
3. What do you think he knows about Jesus after being healed?
4. What does Jesus tell the man to do?
5. Why do you think Jesus sent the man home?
6. What does this suggest about how we can spend our time?
7. What has Jesus done for you? How can you share this with other people?



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