

JESUS CASTS OUT DEMONS

Jesus arrived in a town and was met by a man who acted very strangely. He had demons. He was not in his right mind. He didn't wear clothes, and lived in the caves. When he saw Jesus, the unclean spirits made him say, "What have I to do with you, Jesus?" Jesus asked, "What is your name?" The man answered "Legion."

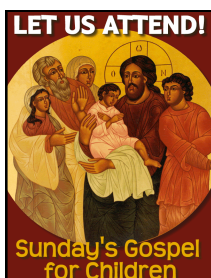
Jesus commanded the legion, or army, of unclean spirits to leave the man and to enter the herd of pigs that were nearby. They did so, and then the herd rushed down a steep hill into the lake and all were drowned. The man was now healed. But the people of the area were afraid of Jesus, and asked that he leave. He got in the boat and left them. The man that was healed wanted to go with Jesus, but Jesus told him to return to his home, and to tell people what God had done for him.



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Look at the man in the drawing. He was very sick. He had demons that made him act strangely. Where did he live?
2. Jesus commanded the unclean spirits to get out of the man. Where did he tell them to go?
3. Did the unclean spirits do as Jesus told them to? What did the pigs do then?
4. The man that Jesus healed wanted to go with him. Jesus told him to do something else. What was it?
5. Name one good thing that God has done for, or given to, you.



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Pre-12



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Materials:

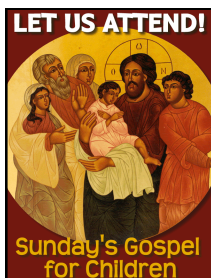
- * craft sticks
- * light colored construction paper
- * crayons, colored pencils, and/or markers
- * glue
- * ribbon or string



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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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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.

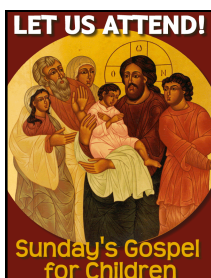
As Jesus got into a boat to leave, the man begged to come along. He wanted to be with Jesus. But Jesus told him to go home and tell all that God had done for him.



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. Jesus met a man who was acting very strangely. What was his problem?
2. The man did not wear clothes. Where did he live?
3. Jesus told the legion, or army, of demons to get out of the man. Where did they go?
4. What happened to the herd of pigs?
5. What did Jesus say the man should tell about?
6. God is more powerful than anyone or anything. If we are feeling or acting strangely, we can ask God to help us. If we are confused, God can help us. We can pray, and then give our problem to God.



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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 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.

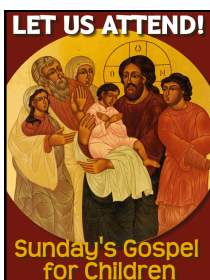
Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gadarenes asked Jesus to depart from them; for they were seized with great fear; so he got into a boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with Jesus; but Jesus sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and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



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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. After the crowds of people find out that Jesus healed the man and sent the demons into the herd of swine how do they react? How do they feel? What do they ask Jesus to do? Why?
2. What scares you or makes you feel afraid? Why is it scary? What do you want to do when you are scared?
3. How is your reaction to what scares you similar to the people in the gospel? How is it different?
4. Why do you think the people were afraid of Jesus?
5. During Divine Liturgy, listen for the places where the priest and deacon say the word fear. (During the Anaphora and right before Communion) Why do they tell us to stand with fear and draw near with fear?
6. Why is God someone to be feared sometimes? Is this the same kind of fear that you feel when the things that scare you happen? How is it the same, or different?
7. Do you think we should be afraid of Jesus in the same way the people in the gospel were afraid of him? Why or why not?
8. Think back to what the deacon or priest tells us before communion: "with fear of God, and faith and love, draw near." How does a person approach in fear and in love at the same time? Why can we approach God even though we fear Him?



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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.

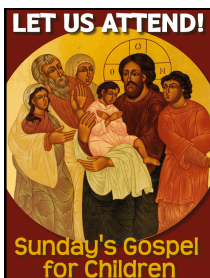
Now a large herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside; and they begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them leave. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

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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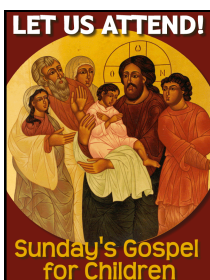
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WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. After the crowds of people find out that Jesus healed the man and sent the demons into the swine how do they react? How do they feel? What do they ask Jesus to do?
2. How would you feel if this event took place in your town? What would you think?
3. Do you think the crowd understood who Jesus is given their reaction to him?
4. Who or what in the story knows who Jesus is and even names him "Jesus, Son of the Most High God?" Does this seem strange to you? Why or why not?
5. What does the crowd's reaction say about Jesus? What does their reaction say about being a human being?
6. What does the Legion's reaction to Jesus say about Jesus?
7. Listen carefully to the first few phrases of the Nicene Creed during the Divine Liturgy. What do we say about God there that is similar to what our gospel story says about Jesus?
8. What does Jesus tell the young man in the gospel to do after he is healed?
9. What do the people who know who God is have to do if God is in charge of everything but people sometimes can't see or understand that?
10. Who do you know who teaches other people about who Jesus is? What can you do to imitate that person this week?



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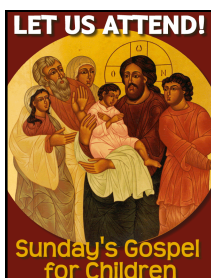
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