

Junior 1 Year 1 Book 2 Lesson 11  
**Miracles over Evil Spirits**  
Passages: Mk 5:1–20

*Memory Verse*

“And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues.” (Mark 16:17)

<b>Knowledge of God’s Will [God’s Word]</b>	<b>Knowledge of God [God’s Divine Nature]</b>	<b>Good Work [Behavior]</b>
Jesus Christ has authority over evil spirits.	God is almighty and ruler of all.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Identify our chains.</li><li>2. Have the desire and conviction to be free.</li><li>3. Bring our chains to Jesus.</li></ol>

*Overview*

**Events and Spiritual Teachings**

- A. Jesus Christ Has Authority over Evil Spirits
- B. The Demon-Possessed Man at Gadarenes
- C. The Demon-Possessed Boy

**Life Application:** Finding True Freedom

**Memory Verse**

**Conclusion:** In our fight against Satan, we must go to Jesus Christ and trust in His power to help us overcome our chains and give us the strength to break free.

## Spiritual Teachings

### A. Jesus Has Authority over Evil Spirits

While on earth, Jesus Christ established His authority as God through the miracles He performed. This authority was not only over the physical world, but also the spiritual. In the Four Gospels, there are six specific miracles where Jesus Christ demonstrates His authority over the spiritual realm through His casting out of evil spirits.

Miracles over Evil Spirits	
Demon-Possessed Man at Gadarenes	Mt 8:28–34; Mk 5:1–20; Lk 8:26–39
Demon-Possessed Mute	Mt 9:32–33
Demon-Possessed Blind & Mute	Mt 12:22–23; Lk 11:14–23
Demon-Possessed Daughter	Mt 15:21–28; Mk 7:24–30
Demon-Possessed Son	Mt 17:14–18; Mk 9:17–29; Lk 9:38–43
Demon-Possessed Man at the Synagogue	Mk 1:21–28; Lk 4:31–37

These miracles over evil spirits are evidence that Jesus Christ is God Himself. Today, we will be studying two of these miracles to gain a deeper understanding of Jesus Christ’s authority over evil spirits.

### B. The Demon-Possessed Man at Gadarenes

#### The Problem

Let’s read Mark 5:1–10.

*Then they came to the other side of the sea, to the country of the Gadarenes. And when He had come out of the boat, immediately there met Him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no one could bind him, not even with chains, because he had often been bound with shackles and chains. And the chains had been pulled apart by him, and the shackles broken in pieces; neither could anyone tame him. And always, night and day, he was in the mountains and in the tombs, crying out and cutting himself with stones.*

(Mk 5:1–5)

After crossing the sea, Jesus Christ came to the region of Gadarenes, a Gentile country also known as Gerasenes. From the description of the demon-possessed man, we can see how pitiful his life was. The evil spirit caused him to become wild, isolated from others, and living among the tombs. The people of the area tried to bind him with shackles and chains, but those failed to contain him. The unclean spirit controlled the man’s body, even causing him to cut himself with stones. Clearly, human means were unable to subdue him or free him from the control of the evil spirits—he was in a hopeless situation.

*When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. And he cried out with a loud voice and said, “What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me.” For He said to him, “Come out of the man, unclean spirit!” Then He asked him, “What is your name?” And he answered, saying, “My name is Legion; for we are many.” Also he begged Him earnestly that He would not send them out of the country.*

(Mk 5:6–10)

The turning point of the situation occurred when the demon-possessed man came before Jesus Christ. While no person had been able to help him before, Jesus Christ was able to because He had the authority and power of God. Jesus Christ's absolute authority is demonstrated through the interaction between Jesus Christ and Legion.

First, upon seeing Jesus from a distance, the evil spirits quickly went to Jesus and worshiped Him. This signified their acknowledgement and recognition that Jesus was one who had authority over them (v. 6). Second, the evil spirits referred to Him as "Jesus, Son of the Most High God" (v. 7). Jesus did not even have to speak a word of introduction and still the evil spirits were able to recognize Him.

In addition to being able to identify Jesus, they also greatly feared Him. The evil spirits begged Jesus not to send them out of the country (vv. 7, 10). This simple act of begging shows that the evil spirits were aware that Jesus had control over them. They understood that they had to obey whatever Jesus commanded them to do. When Jesus Christ said, "Come out of the man," the evil spirits obeyed because His words have authority. Though it had been impossible for man to control the evil spirits, Jesus Christ simply had to speak a few words to cast them out. From this we can see Jesus' authority over all.

### **The Miracle**

Let's read Mark 5:11–20. With His command, Jesus Christ forced the evil spirits to come out of the man (Mk 5:8, 13). However, Legion begged Jesus to be sent into a nearby herd of pigs, and Jesus consented. As a result, the evil spirits went into the herd of pigs, causing them to run down a steep place into the sea, where they drowned.

With the assimilation of Gentiles into their land, herding pigs may not have been uncommon. But according to Mosaic laws, they were unclean animals in God's eyes, unfit for eating or for sacrifice (Lev 11:7–8). Legion's entry into a herd of unclean animals reminds us that any impurity in our hearts and lives is an opportunity for temptation and sin to enter and lead us to spiritual death (Eph 4:27).

We can also see and learn from the two types of reactions to this miracle. The first type was that of the pig herders and the townspeople who, after witnessing the miracle, begged Jesus Christ to leave (Mk 5:17). They feared what they did not understand. A great miracle had been performed, but they focused only on the lost herd of pigs. Whether it was from the shock, or from the realization that they had suffered a great loss with no gain in return, the herders were unable to see Jesus Christ for the Savior that He was.

The second reaction was that of the man who had been freed from the evil spirits. This man understood who Jesus Christ really was and wanted to be with Him, so he begged to go with Jesus (Mk 5:18). Even though he had finally been freed from evil spirits and could return to his family and life, he wanted to be with Jesus. However, Jesus did not allow him to travel with Him. Instead, He commanded the newly freed man to testify to others what the Lord had done for him. His freedom from his suffering became a testimony of Jesus Christ and His power. Since Jesus was being forced to leave the region, this man would be a way for the gospel of Christ to be preached in His absence.

### **C. The Demon-Possessed Boy**

Let us look at another example of Jesus Christ's authority over evil spirits.

#### **The Problem**

Let us begin by studying Mark 9:17–20.

*Then one of the crowd answered and said, "Teacher, I brought You my son, who has a mute spirit. And wherever it seizes him, it throws him down; he foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth, and becomes rigid. So I spoke to Your disciples, that they should cast it out, but they could not."*

(Mk 9:17–18)

This boy and his father suffered under the control of the evil spirit. The father suffered at the sight of his son in pain, unable to do anything about it. The boy suffered at the mercy of the evil spirit, as he was powerless to control his own body. The evil spirit would cause him to fall to the ground, foam at the mouth, gnash his teeth, and become rigid. It would even attempt to destroy him by throwing him into water or fire. We do not know how exactly how long the boy had been suffering under the control of the evil spirit, but we know that no one had been able to control the evil spirit. Even Jesus Christ's own disciples were unable to cast out the evil spirit.

*He answered him and said, "O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him to Me." Then they brought him to Him. And when he saw Him, immediately the spirit convulsed him, and he fell on the ground and wallowed, foaming at the mouth.*

(Mk 9:19–20)

Jesus Christ commanded for the boy to be brought before Him. When the boy saw Jesus, the evil spirit within the boy immediately reacted. The evil spirit convulsed the boy, causing him to fall to the ground and foam at the mouth. This sudden reaction illustrates that the evil spirit knew who Jesus Christ was and responded in fear at His presence.

### **The Miracle**

Let us continue to read Mark 9:21–29. Before casting out the evil spirit, Jesus Christ first addressed the father's lack of faith, stating: "If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes" (v. 23). In response to Jesus, the father of the boy cried out in tears, "Lord, I believe; help my unbelief!" (v. 24). Seeing this reaction, Jesus commanded the evil spirit to come out, saying, "Deaf and dumb spirit, I command you, come out of him and enter him no more!" (v. 25).

Once again, we can see the authority Jesus Christ has over evil spirits. This evil spirit had been controlling the boy since childhood, but with one phrase, Jesus Christ commanded the evil spirit to come out. The evil spirit had no choice but to obey Jesus Christ because of His authority and power as God. The "impossible" had become possible with only one phrase.

Later on, the disciples asked Him why they were unable to cast out the evil spirit. Jesus replied, saying, "This kind can come out by nothing but prayer and fasting" (v. 29). Through this we know that the power to cast out evil spirits comes from prayer, which the disciples lacked. Today, this is a reminder that our own power is limited and without prayer, we have no authority. Therefore, we must pray, so that we may receive power and authority from God.

From these two miracles, we are able to see Jesus' authority over evil spirits.

- The evil spirits knew Jesus Christ was the Son of God (Mk 5:7).
- The evil spirits feared Jesus Christ (Jas 2:19).
- The evil spirits had to obey His commands (Mk 9:25–26).

In addition, these miracles also make us aware of the spiritual battle in which we are currently engaged. Satan is constantly at war with the people of God. 1 Peter 5:8 describes Satan as a roaring lion waiting to devour the people of God. However, Jesus Christ proclaims that the power to cast out evil spirits has been given to the believers of Jesus Christ (Mk 16:17). Today, we have the power and authority from God to be free and to free people from Satan.

### *Check for Understanding*

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- 1. What problems did the evil spirits cause for those who were possessed?**
  - First miracle: Caused the man to become wild, dwell among the tombs, and cut himself.
  - Second miracle: The child had no control of his body; the spirit convulsed him and threw him into fire and water.
- 2. How did Jesus Christ cast out the evil spirits?** Through His spoken command (Mk 5:8; 9:25).
- 3. What were the two responses to Jesus Christ casting out the evil spirits from the man at Gadarenes?** The townspeople begged Him to leave, and the previously demon-possessed man begged to go with Him.
- 4. Why did Jesus Christ not allow the man at Gadarenes to follow Him?** He wanted him to go back to his people and testify about what the Lord had done for him.
- 5. How did the evil spirits recognize Jesus' authority?** They feared Him because they knew who He was, and they obeyed Him.
- 6. Why were the disciples unable to cast out the evil spirit?** They lacked prayer (Mk 9:29).

### *Life Application*

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#### **Finding True Freedom**

*"Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed" (Jn 8:36).*

As believers, we are continually engaged in a spiritual war. There are things beyond the physical world that we are unable to see. From the miracles recorded in the Bible, as well as the testimonies we see in church, we can see that the spiritual battle is a reality. Though evil spirits may not literally possess us today, we may still feel bound in other ways. Our addictions, guilt, negative emotions, or many other things can bind us internally. This internal bondage can be difficult to overcome on our own, but we must remember a crucial fact: We are not alone, and we do not have to suffer alone. We can turn to God for help, just as the father of the demon-possessed boy and the demon-possessed man at Gadarenes turned to Jesus.

So, how can we find true freedom in Christ today? Let us carefully study the following steps to find out.

#### **1. Identify our chains**

Before we can become free, we must first identify what is binding us. The two miracles we studied today have taught us that those who are possessed by an evil spirit suffer greatly. Bound by the evil spirits, they had no control over their bodies. Likewise, we may also have chains of our own. Some chains are easily identifiable; these are things that we know we should not do but cannot stop ourselves from doing. Apostle Paul once said, "For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice" (Rom 7:19). For example, we may know not to lie, but we still copy our friend's homework. Other chains are more hidden; we must be completely honest with ourselves before God in order to identify these chains.

Ask yourself: "What is binding me? Do I have the need to be seen as perfect in the eyes of others?" We must dig deep and look into our hearts to identify our chains clearly.

## **2. Have the desire and conviction to be free**

Once we have identified our chains, we must then find the motivation to break free. Elijah once asked the rebellious Israelites, "How long will you falter between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him" (1 Kgs 18:21). In the same way, we also have to make up our minds: Do we want to continue in the same pattern of sin, or do we want to make a change? Do we want to break free from our chains, or have we become too comfortable and accustomed to this lifestyle? If we do not have clear answers or any determination, then it will be difficult to break free. Our chains have a negative impact on our relationship with God because with God, there is no gray area. There is only right and wrong. If we choose to live with our chains, then we will never experience the joy that comes from having true freedom. Therefore, we must come before God with the determination to break free from the chains that bind us and make the resolution to remain free of them.

## **3. Bring our chains to Jesus Christ**

Once we have the determination to break free, we must then come before the source of transformative power, Jesus Christ. In desperation, the father of the demon-possessed boy searched tirelessly for a way for his son to be healed. He cried out to Jesus, asking Him to help him overcome his unbelief (Mk 9:24). Jesus Christ saw his heart and was able to free the boy from the unclean spirit. In the same way, we must go to Jesus with a sincere and convicted heart for the power to overcome Satan's bondage. He will respond to our contrite heart. John 8:36 says, "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed." This is the promise that Jesus has given to us, so let us come boldly before Him with our chains so that He can help us to break free from them.

### **Discussion**

- What is one thing/some things that you feel bound by?
- How do you bring your chain(s) to Jesus Christ?
- Have you been able to break free from a chain through the power of Jesus Christ? If so, share your experience.

### **Testimony: Overcoming Evil Spirits**

*Since I was young, my family members, especially my mother, were devout Buddhists. There was a room in our home dedicated as a miniature temple for the different idols. My mother would also make us chant in front of the shrine every morning. However, though my mother was such a devout Buddhist, she never really felt peace in her heart.*

*In 1980, my family immigrated to the United States, and that is when my dad got in touch with one of his old colleagues who was a member of True Jesus Church. This brother invited us to join a family service that was being held at their home. My parents did not want to offend him, so they went to his home to join the service. During the concluding prayer of family service, my parents joined in the prayer. However, instead of praying to God, my mother prayed to Buddha.*

*The next morning, my mother began to hear a voice in her head that was talking to her. Thinking that it was a spirit from the temple, my mother felt honored to host it. However, over time, the spirit began to badmouth each member of the family. It caused many misunderstandings and arguments in our family. Slowly, my mother realized that this was not a good spirit, but an evil spirit. My parents*

*began to find help from famous monks and Buddhist temples. Each time, they would require us to pay large amounts of money, but the evil spirit still remained.*

*Over time, my mother's situation worsened because the evil spirit would not allow her to sleep. It would control her body, so that she would run around in the middle of the night, screaming and making sure that no one else slept. It also controlled what she would say and do. Even though my mother knew what she wanted to say or do, it was like she had no control over it.*

*This was a terrible time for my family. We sought help everywhere, but to no avail. One day, my mother remembered the Holy Spirit from the brother's family service. She contacted the brother and told him about her situation. The brother invited her to attend the spiritual convocation that was to begin the next day. My mother packed up her things and went to stay at church the next day.*

*On the first day, a pastor laid his hands on my mother, casting out the evil spirit by saying, "In the name of Lord Jesus, I cast you out!" Later in the day, another pastor also said the same phrase. From this repetition of the same phrase by two different pastors, my mother began to put her faith in God. That night, my mother began to panic because she was afraid the evil spirit would keep her awake. As she was thinking this, the next thing she knew, it was 7:00 AM the next morning. My mother could not believe it. It was the first time in over one year that she slept from night until morning.*

*Later in the week, the pastor asked my mother if she would be interested in getting baptized and she agreed to get baptized. That night before baptism, the evil spirit was angry and would not let my mother sleep. However, she relied on God and the next morning, she was baptized. After baptism, we never heard from the evil spirit again. God guided our family through a time when we had no hope to a time when we were able to find hope in Him.*

- Anonymous  
Adapted from *Saving Grace*

### **Memory Verse**

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"And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues." (Mark 16:17)

### **Meaning**

1. Jesus Christ has the authority to cast out demons because He is God Himself.
2. This ability to cast out demons is a sign that follows His believers. It is evidence of His abidance.
3. Today, we have the authority to cast out demons in His name because we are His believers and followers.

### **Conclusion**

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Jesus Christ is almighty and more powerful than any evil spirit. As we continue to fight the spiritual battle against Satan, let us go to Him and trust in His power to help us overcome our chains. Though we may be weak at times, when we have Jesus on our side, we have nothing to fear, as He gives us the strength to break free.

## Lesson 11 Homework Assignment Answer Key

1. What does the memory verse tell us about the believers of God?  
*The ability to cast out demons is a sign that follows God's believers. It is evidence of His abidance. We as His followers have the authority to cast out demons in His name.*
2. What problem did the evil spirits cause for those who were possessed?  
*They caused the man in the Gadarenes to become wild, live in isolation, and harm himself. The child had no control over his body; the spirit would make him convulse and throw himself into fire and water.*
3. What were the two responses to Jesus Christ casting out the evil spirits from the man at Gadarenes?  
*The people feared what they did not understand and focused on the loss of their pigs, making them unable to see Jesus Christ for the Savior that He was. The man who had been cured had the opposite reaction and begged leave to follow Jesus despite his new ability to live a normal life after so many years of being possessed.*
4. Although not possessed by evil spirits, what are we in danger of being controlled by? What are the steps to overcoming these chains?  
*We are in danger of being controlled by things such as addictions, guilt, or negative emotions. First identify them, then have the desire and conviction to be free, and lastly bring our chains to Christ.*
5. Name some "chains" either you or people you know have been bound by, past or present.  
*Personal answers.*
6. Do you have any personal chains? What are some steps you will take to overcome them?  
*Personal answers.*