

LESSON 3

JESUS HEALS THE DEMON-POSSESSED MAN

BEFORE YOU TEACH

Gerasenes

Gerasenes was a Gentile region southeast of the Sea of Galilee. The Greek cities there did not belong to any country and were self-governing. They were known as the Decapolis, or the Ten Towns. In other ancient manuscripts, Gerasenes is spelled as Gadarenes and Gergesenes.

Although pigs were unclean to Jews and eating them was forbidden (Lev 11:7-8), the Gentiles had no objections to them. This is why they were feeding nearby when the demons entered the herd.

After Jesus healed a person, He usually commanded that person to keep quiet about the miracle. But in this instance, He asked the man who had been demon-possessed to witness for Him. This may have been because Gerasenes was a Gentile region, and this miracle was an effective method to introduce God's message to them while Jesus continued to preach to the Jews. In addition, the Gentiles were not expecting a Messiah and would not have tried to crown Him king, as the Jews would have.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

This lesson imparts two important messages. The first is the great power and love of God. He can cast out demons no matter how many there are or how strong they may be. In this situation, it was because of Jesus' love for the tortured man that He drove the evil spirits out. Nothing is more powerful than our God. The second is how the man felt compelled to testify for God. Even though he had originally wanted to follow Jesus, he knew that spreading the good news of God would be the best way to help with Jesus' work.

By now, your students will have likely developed a willingness to help out in church. They are always taught to repay God for the wonderful blessings they have received. This is because they believe in His power and saving grace. However, they may not recognize the many ways they can offer to God. In their minds, donating a lot of money or dedicating themselves to be ministers are the only ways to truly repay God. But not everyone can offer those things, and God does not expect that from them at their age. Remind them that every time they help anyone, such as when Jesus helped the demon-possessed man, they are showing God that they want to repay Him for His love. Make a list of things they can do so that they are aware. Also encourage them that, if nothing else, there is one basic thing they can all do for Jesus: tell others how much God has done for them, just like the man who had been cured did. When the students have these concrete ideas, they can feel joy in serving and obeying God.

BIBLE TEXT

Luke 8:26-39;
cf. Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20

BIBLE TRUTH

Jesus is full of love and compassion and He heals the demon-possessed.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To believe that Jesus is far more powerful than evil spirits.
2. To become aware of and appreciate what God has done for us, and to share His grace with others by testifying for Him.

MEMORY VERSE

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds."

(Psalm 147:3)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Lord Jesus, the world around us is constantly changing. Nothing seems to stay the same. But You never change. You are a loving and caring God who always looks after our needs. We need Your guidance every day. Help us, Lord, especially when we are weak in faith. Teach us to be strong in spirit. Hallelujah! Amen.

VOCABULARY

- demon:** an evil spirit
possessed: controlled or dominated by an evil spirit
abyss: a deep, bottomless pit; in the Bible, it is a place where evil spirits and beasts dwell

REVIEW

Last week, we learned about the power of Jesus. Jesus used only five loaves of bread and two fish to feed over five thousand people, not counting women and children, who had come to listen to His words and witness His healing power. There were even twelve baskets of food left over.

After this great miracle, Jesus sent His disciples on a boat to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. They went first while Jesus went to pray. In the middle of the night, a great storm came and the disciples became very scared as the boat rocked back and forth, tossed around by the high waves. Suddenly, they saw Jesus walking on the water towards them. At first they thought it was a ghost and were terrified, but Jesus assured them, saying, "It is I; do not be afraid." Peter even asked Jesus to command him to walk on the water, but when the winds got stronger, he panicked and began to sink. Jesus stretched out His hand to grab Peter and they both reached the boat safely. From this miracle, we learned that we should always put our complete trust in Jesus at all times. We should never doubt the power of Jesus.

BIBLE STORY

A Demon-Possessed Man

Jesus traveled to many places as He spread the message of God. One time, He sailed to a place called Gerasenes [it may help to draw or prepare a map, marking the various places Jesus went to, including Gerasenes]. When Jesus and His disciples stepped off the boat, a man approached them. But this was not any ordinary man; he was a man possessed by demons! He wore no clothes and lived in places like graveyards. He was probably very dirty because he had not bathed for a long time. The people in the town had tried many times to chain him up, but the demons in the man always caused him to break free and run wild. Everyone who lived there must have been afraid of this man but no one could do anything to help him. How would you react if you saw this man (e.g., scared or disgusted)? Would you want to get close to him or try to stay away? We'll see how Jesus reacted to this man.

The Demons Recognize Jesus

When this demon-possessed man reached Jesus, he fell at His feet and shouted in a loud voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You, don't torture me!"

This man knew that Jesus was the Son of God. Actually, it was not the man speaking but the demons living inside of him. They were scared of Jesus and knew what His great power could do. They knew Jesus was going to drive them out of the man.

Jesus was not afraid of the man and did not try to get away from him. Instead, He looked at the man and asked,

"What is your name?"

The demons inside replied, "Legion." A legion was the largest unit in the Roman army, made up of three to six thousand soldiers. This meant that the man was possessed by many demons.

The Demons Beg Jesus

The demons knew that they were about to be driven out of the man and had no choice but to obey Jesus' orders. They begged Jesus to let them go into a herd of pigs that was feeding nearby. That way, they wouldn't have to go into the abyss, which was a deep, dark, and bottomless hole where evil spirits lived [draw a simple diagram of an abyss, illustrating its bottomless nature; then, ask the students if they would want to fall in—neither did the demons!]. If they went there, they would not be able to get out. After Jesus heard their request, He gave them permission to go into the pigs.

The Man Is Healed

When the demons came out of the man, they went into the herd of pigs. Immediately, the herd rushed down a steep cliff into a lake and drowned. The people who had been tending the pigs saw what had happened and were in shock. They ran off right away to report it to the people living in the nearby towns. When everyone heard about this strange event, they all came out to see for themselves. They were amazed and couldn't believe their eyes when they saw the man who had been demon-possessed and crazy sitting at Jesus' feet, wearing clothes, and acting like

a normal person. They didn't know what to make of this situation and became afraid. They had never seen anyone with such power. They were so speechless that they didn't even thank Jesus for curing the man. Instead, out of fear, the townsmen asked Jesus and His disciples to leave the place immediately.

Jesus Departs

Jesus had come to save people, not to make them afraid of Him, so He decided to get back into the boat and leave

with His disciples. The man who was healed wanted to go with Jesus because he was so grateful. He wanted to help Jesus in any way he could, but Jesus had other plans for him.

Jesus said to the man, "Return home and tell everyone what great things God has done for you." The man obeyed Jesus and did as he was told. He went everywhere and told of the wonderful grace and power of God, and all who heard his story were amazed.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

Fill In the Blank/True or False/Questions to Think About

1. The demons living inside the man were _____ (afraid) of Jesus when they saw Him.
2. They begged Jesus to let them go into a herd of _____ (pigs).
3. The demon-possessed man acted normally and wore clothes before he met Jesus. False; he ran around wildly and wore no clothing.
4. After the man was healed by Jesus, he told everyone about what great thing Jesus had done for him. True.
5. Jesus wanted to heal this man because he loved him. True.
6. When the people saw that the demon-possessed man had been healed, they were joyful and welcomed Jesus. False; they were afraid and asked Jesus to leave the area.
7. Why were the demons living inside the man afraid of Jesus? Jesus is the Son of God, who is more powerful than all.
8. How did the man help Jesus by telling his family and others about how he had been healed? He helped spread the word of the miracles that Jesus performed and told people of His greatness.
9. If you had been one of the people living in the nearby towns, how would you have reacted to seeing this great miracle? Answers may vary.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

"He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds." (Psalm 147:3)

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. Gerasenes
2. B
3. True
4. Jesus is the Son of God, who is more powerful than all.
5. A drawing of pigs running into a lake.
6. A facial expression showing shock, surprise, or fear.
7. begged; follow; return; home; great
8. "Hallelujah! In the name of Jesus Christ!"
9. Fill in the chart

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1. Demons still exist today, but Jesus is far more powerful than them.

[Ask the students if they believe in ghosts and demons; their answers may vary and be influenced by the media to which they've been exposed.]

Although it seems like we hardly see anyone possessed by demons today, evil spirits are very real and they indeed exist. In fact, there are some places in the world, such as Africa, where people practice witchcraft and sorcery, and where the work of the devil abounds. Many preachers in our church have encountered demon-possessed people on multiple occasions.

Imagine if there were a demon-possessed person here with us right now. How would you feel? Would you be scared? [Let students answer.] Fortunately, evil spirits are just as afraid of Jesus now as they were in Jesus' time. Why are they afraid? Because they know very well that Jesus is far more powerful than they are. Today, our church workers continue to cast out demons in the powerful and holy name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let me share a short testimony with you!

One of our full-time preachers had many experiences with evil spirits before he came to believe. He would have nightmares where five evil spirits were attacking him, and for a period of time, he was afraid to even sleep. After he came to believe and received the Holy Spirit, the evil spirits still continued to attack him in his sleep, but now he was able to defeat them. Each time he said, "In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ," the evil spirits would disappear. Indeed, just the name of Jesus itself is so mighty and powerful! After this preacher received God's grace, he did exactly what Jesus told the demon-possessed man to do: he went and declared to his family the great things God had done for him. Even his own father, who used to practice witchcraft with the abidance of an evil spirit, came to believe in God. With God's power, he got rid of the evil spirit in him. Because this preacher shared the gospel as Jesus commanded, many members of his family are now baptized members of our church.

Questions

1. **How was this preacher able to make the evil spirits go away?** By casting out the evil spirits in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. **How did he repay God's love?** He brought his family members to know God.

If you are curious to know more, you can ask our pastors and deacons about their experiences. They are amazing testimonies that reaffirm the powerful name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, if we do encounter an evil spirit or a demon-possessed person, we have absolutely nothing to be afraid of, because our Lord Jesus loves us and will protect us. All we need to do is call upon His name and the demons will go away. In fact, let's practice a few times how to declare the name of Jesus! Please read after me, "Hallelujah! In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!" [Practice a few times with your students.]

Besides casting out demons, calling upon Jesus' name can also give us peace and strength when we are afraid. One of Jesus' names in the Bible is the "Prince of Peace" (Isa 9:6). When Jesus was born, the angels said, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, goodwill toward men!" (Lk 2:14). He brought peace to earth! Today, Jesus can also bring peace to us—into our hearts, our homes, and everywhere we go. Therefore, when we encounter fear and unease, remember that we can always call upon Jesus' name. Not only can His name cast out demons, it can also bring us peace.

2. Share God's Grace with Others

Students, even though we most likely have not had any experience with evil spirits, it does not mean that we cannot share the great things God has done for us, as this full-time pastor did. It is important for us to realize just how many things we can be thankful for in our lives.

[To help them become aware of God's blessings, ask them to make a list of good things in their lives. Some examples might include recovering from a cold, finding something they have lost, or having their parents cook food for them.]

Just like our full-time pastor in the testimony who brought his family to know God, we can also bring more people to know Jesus when we share our blessings from God with them. When we share, we are showing our appreciation to Jesus—the source of all our blessings. Just like the demon-possessed man, he wanted to tell everybody what Jesus had done for him. He knew that this was one of the only ways he could repay Jesus' for him. Likewise, we can also repay Jesus' love today by thanking God and sharing when good things happen. Can you think of a list of people with whom you can share your blessings (parents, siblings, friends at school, etc.)? Boys and girls, we receive so many blessings from God every day that we shouldn't take for granted. Let's read this touching real-life case from which we can learn.

Every month, Jasmine and her friends from E1 class would come together and share testimonies. They received so many blessings from God that they wanted to share them with one another. This year, they were particularly excited about Spiritual Convocation. They couldn't wait to share their blessings once again with those they knew who hadn't yet gotten to know Jesus. They knew that preaching the good news was one way to repay God's grace. Many of them made a list of friends and family members they wanted to invite to church for SC.

One day, they were talking together about how excited they were about SC. They were making a count of how many people they were planning to bring to SC! As they were counting, they came up with an excellent idea: They could design an SC invitation for everyone to use! As a result, they met for a few days during the following week and started making the invitations. They included every detail of the SC on the invitations, and they planned to place them at the church reception for church members to take home and give to their friends and family members. Sure enough, the invitations were all gone soon after they placed them there and many other church members used them.

That year, many truth-seekers attended the SC. Some E1 students also shared their testimonies with the truth-seekers. Thank God, some of the truth-seekers have been baptized now and have received the precious Holy Spirit.

Students, let's start repaying Him today by sharing His grace with people around us!

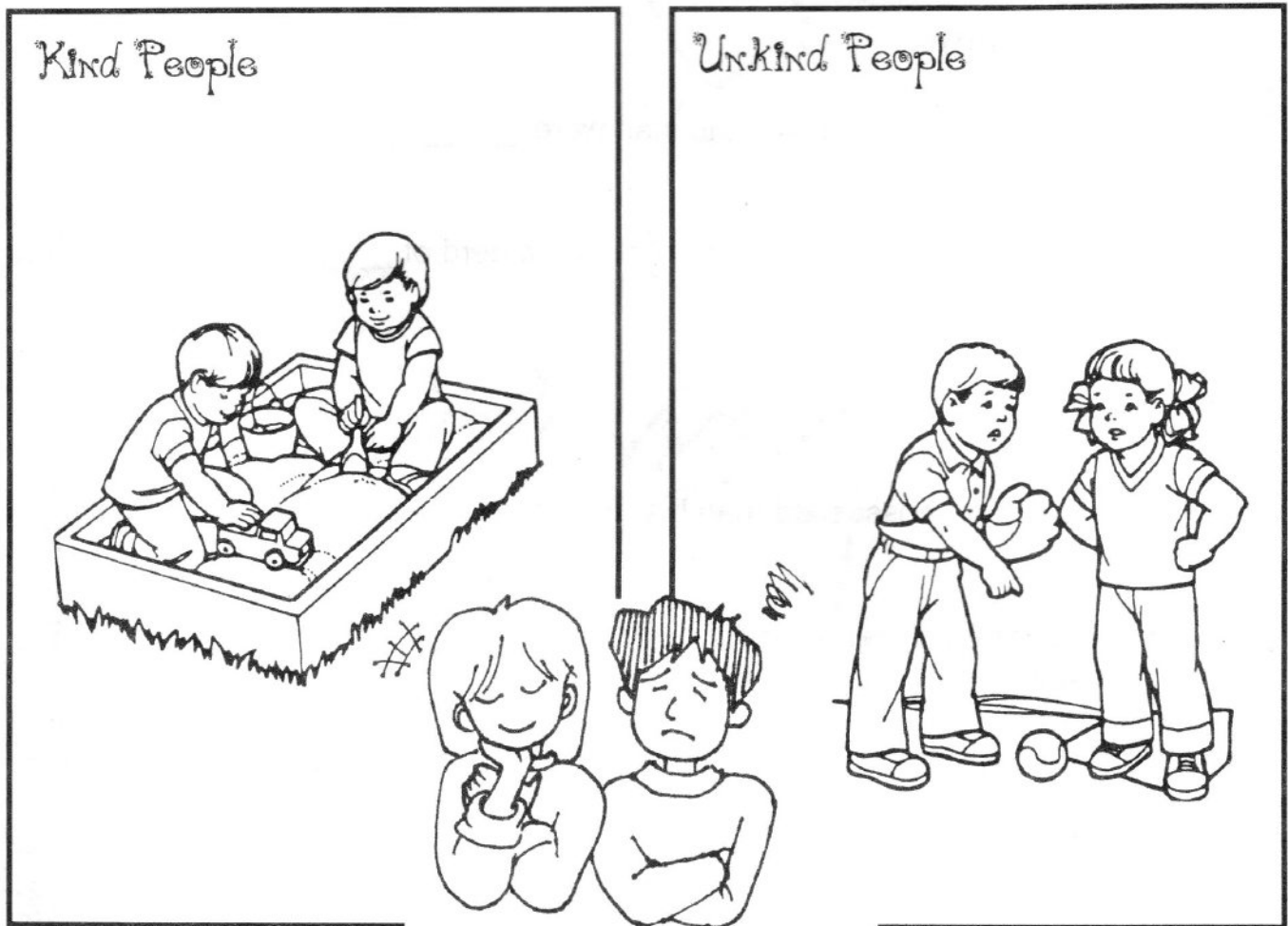
ACTIVITIES

1 Show Our Kindness / Part A

Objective: To encourage students to show kindness, just as Jesus showed kindness to the demon-possessed man.

Instructions

Make a list of kind people you know. Then, make a list of words that describe the kind people (forgiving, patient, loving, friendly). On the opposite side, make a list of words that describe unkind people (selfish, greedy, mean). Then think of a time when you saw someone who needed help or looked lonely—what could a kind person do in that situation? Write down what you can do to show kindness this week.



Things I can do this week to show my kindness:

2

Show Our Kindness / Part B

Objective: To encourage students to show kindness, just as Jesus showed kindness to the demon-possessed man.**Instructions**

Fill in the missing words to this poem by using the words in the box. Remember, the poem rhymes.

asked	way	week	you
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*In everything you do and say,
you should do it in a very kind _____.
"Please" and "thank you" are words to speak,
not just sometimes but throughout the _____.
Helping others without being _____ is
the best way to show a kind act.
So be kind in all you do and you will see
God working through _____.*



E1 Year 2 Book 4 Lesson 3—Jesus Heals the Demon-Possessed Man

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: Jesus is full of love and compassion and He heals the demon-possessed.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To believe that Jesus is far more powerful than evil spirits.
 2. To become aware of and appreciate what God has done for us, and to testify for Him.

Bible Reading: Please put a check mark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a check mark in the space provided on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Psalm 147:3)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

1. What was the name of the place where Jesus sailed to and met the demon-possessed man? _____
2. _____ : Where did the demon-possessed man live?
 - a. In a house in a town
 - b. In tombs
 - c. On the streets in the city
3. **True or False:** The man was demon-possessed for a long time before Jesus met him. _____
4. How do we know that the demons were weaker than Jesus? (Hint: Read Luke 8:28-32.)

- 5-6. Draw the animals that Jesus let the demons go into, and show what happened to them afterwards. How did the people react when they saw what had happened? Draw a picture of a face showing how one of the people might have reacted.



Fill In the Blank

follow, home, begged, return, great

7. After the man was healed, he _____ Jesus because he wanted to _____ Jesus. But Jesus told him to _____ back to his _____ and tell others what _____ things God had done for him.
8. If we are ever scared of a demon or anything else, what can we say to make our fear go away? Write it down 3 times, saying it aloud each time.
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____

Life Application

9. Every day this week, write down one good thing that happened to you or one kind act you did for somebody, and tell someone about it (it could be your mom, dad, brother or sister, or friend at school). Remember to give thanks to God! Use the boxes below to keep track.

	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Good Thing You Did				
Who You Shared With				

	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Good Thing You Did			
Who You Shared With			