

# GOD'S BIG PLAN

## Jesus Has Power Over Demons Matthew 8:28-34

**Supporting Scriptures:** Mk 1:32-34; Lk 4:31-37 • Mk 5:1-20; Lk 8:26-39 • Matt 9:32-34 • Matt 12:22-28; Mk 3:22-27 • Matt 15:21-28; Mk 7:24-30  
Matt 17:14-21; Mk 9:14-29; Lk 9:37-43 • Lk 11:14-28; John 8:44; Colossians 1:16; 1 Peter 5:8; 1 John 4:4; Rev 20:10-15



**Lesson Goals:** To teach that Jesus is God.  
To teach that no one can save himself from Satan.  
To teach that Jesus is stronger than the created being, Satan.

**Scripture Memory** Children, you belong to God . . . God's Spirit is in you and is more powerful than the one that is in the world. 1 John 4:4 (CEV)

**NOTE:** Familiarize yourself with this story. Don't read it. Tell it as a STORY. To reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

**The Lesson:** Let's review what we have learned so far. (Review the previous stories, focusing on the first five. Encourage more and more students to share.)

Who remembers the beginning of all things? Who was in the beginning? (God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit). What did God create first? (Even before light and earth, God created angels.) The Bible tells us that everything, including the angels, was created by God and for God. And as those angels looked on, cheering and shouting, God opened His mouth and created everything else; light, plants, animals and even man and woman.

Have all the angels always obeyed God? (No.) Who disobeyed? (Satan, the devil.) Do you remember that God created Satan as Lucifer? He was beautiful. But he became arrogant and stuck-up. He decided that he would choose his own way and other angels followed him in his disobedience. Lucifer wanted to put himself in God's place. But Lucifer is not God; he is a created being who chose to forget that God is the creator. God is all-powerful and in control of everything. God punished Satan and the other angels. Their punishment was that God kicked them out of heaven! Satan, and his demons, are God's enemies.

**READ: Mark 5:1-3 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)**

Jesus and His friends had been out on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus had been teaching and they crossed over from where He taught to a place on the other side called Gerasenes. When Jesus stepped out of the boat, a man came up to Him. The man appeared to be crazy. He was cut and scraped. He wore bands on his wrists and ankles where he had once been chained. No one was strong enough to control him and he screamed all the time. He hadn't lived in a house or worn clothes for a very long time. Instead he lived in the tombs outside of town. An evil spirit (a devil or demon) had taken over this man's body. He was so wild that no one ever walked his way, at least not until the day Jesus stepped out of the boat.

The man saw Jesus from far away and he ran to Him. The man fell on his knees in front of Jesus. The demon in him knew exactly who Jesus was. "Jesus, Son of the Most High God, what do you want with me? Don't hurt me," he screamed. "Are you going to punish me before it's time?" Jesus answered the demon, "Get out of that man!" "Jesus, please, oh please," squealed the demon, "Send us into that herd of pigs over there." "Go," Jesus said. And the demons left the man, just like that. They went into the herd of pigs

that had been grazing on the hillside and ran them over the cliff and into the sea. The pigs drowned in the sea. But the man who had been tormented for years by the evil spirit sat before them calmly. He dressed himself and was thinking clearly.

When Jesus prepared to leave, the man ran after Him. He begged to go with Jesus. Jesus had other plans, though. He said, "Go home to your family. Tell them how much the Lord has done for you. Tell them how kind he has been to you." So the man went away and told people all over town how much Jesus had done for him.

**Review:**

Let's review what you have learned. Who would like to retell the story? (Ask your group if anything was left out or told inaccurately.) Would anyone else like to retell the story?

There are other stories in the Bible about people who were controlled by the devil. Those who came to Jesus were changed. The Bible doesn't tell us how the people came to be taken over by demons, but it does tell us not to give the devil an opportunity in our lives. The Bible tells us this while talking about not staying angry with those around us. Holding on to anger gives the devil an opportunity in our lives. Rather than play around with things that are dangerous and bad for us, we should do what the demon possessed man did; we should run to Jesus. The Bible warns us to control ourselves and be on our guard. Our enemy the devil is like a roaring lion. He prowls around looking for someone to chew up and swallow. Not only is the devil God's enemy, he is also our enemy. The Bible describes the devil like this, "From the beginning, the devil was a murderer. He has never obeyed the truth. There is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his natural language. He does this because he is a liar. He is the father of lies."

Did you catch what the demon asked Jesus? "Are you going to punish me before it's time?" Not only did the demon recognize Jesus, the God of the universe, but he was also reminded of his future punishment. There is a awful place reserved for the devil, his demons and those who follow him. It's a place where they will be punished and in pain for ever and ever and they want company.

So, should we walk around in fear of the devil? Well, the devil is powerful and he's mean. He's looking for people to destroy. What else did you notice in the story? Did the demon do whatever he wanted to? He did whatever he wanted to with the poor man, but what about when Jesus arrived? The demon couldn't do anything without permission from Jesus. Rather than fearing the devil, we should put all of our trust and confidence in God. Why? Well, did the devil create himself? Is he a god? No, he isn't. The devil is a created being, and a disobedient one, at that. God is the Creator. God is all-powerful. And this all-powerful God, loved us enough to send His One and Only Son. Jesus loved us enough to die in our place on the cross and offer us a wonderful forever. Will you run to Jesus? If you will, the Bible says that nothing can separate you from God's love, not even demons. When you believe in Jesus, choosing to follow Him, you belong to God. Once you belong to God, He holds you in the same huge hand that can measure the entire universe. In that hand, you are safe and secure; nothing can snatch you away from Him, because God is more powerful than the devil. And once you choose to follow Jesus, show Him that you love Him by being obedient. Follow the example of the man from our story, tell everyone in your family and school and town how much God has done for you. Tell them how kind He has been to you!

**Planning for Next Week**  
**Lesson 35 • What Kind of Soil are You?**  
**Matthew 13**

# PRESCHOOL LESSON

**SING:** "I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy"

**SHARE:** Jesus and His friends had been out on the Sea of Galilee. Jesus had been teaching. They crossed the sea and went to a place called Gerasenes. When Jesus stepped out of the boat, a man came up to Him. The man appeared to be crazy. He was cut and scraped. He wore bands on his wrists and ankles where he had once been chained. No one was strong enough to control him and he screamed all the time. He hadn't lived in a house for a very long time. Instead he lived outside of town. He was so wild that no one ever walked his way, at least not until the day Jesus stepped out of the boat.

The man saw Jesus from far away and he ran to Him. The man fell on his knees in front of Jesus. The man had a devil living in him. The devil in him knew exactly who Jesus was. "Jesus, you are the Son of the Most High God. What do you want with me? Don't hurt me," he screamed.

Jesus answered the devil, "Get out of that man!"

"Jesus, please, oh please," squealed the devil, "Send us into those pigs over there."

"Go," Jesus said. And the demons left the man, just like that. They went into the pigs that had been grazing on the hillside. But the devil made the pigs so crazy that they ran over the cliff. The pigs drowned in the sea. But the man who had been crazy for years because of the evil spirit sat before them. He was calm. He dressed himself and was thinking clearly.

When Jesus was ready to leave, the man ran after Him. He begged to go with Jesus. Jesus had other plans, though. He said, "Go home to your family. Tell them how much the Lord has done for you. Tell them how kind he has been to you." So the man went away and told people all over town how much Jesus had done for him.

**PRAY:** Thank you, God, for helping people that are hurting.

# LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Memory Verse Activity -
- Make “Marshmallow Pigs.” This can be done by attaching a small pink marshmallow to the end of a large pink marshmallow. Eyes can be made with sprinkles and a tail from small, rope-like gummy snacks. Enjoy!
- Make “pig’s ears” for your students. Cut two pink felt triangles and glue them to a headband.
- Make “pig’s noses,” as well. Cut apart an egg carton. Paint each individual piece pink. Tie yarn to both sides. To wear the nose, tie the yarn around the back of each student’s head.
- Make pink play dough.
- Sing “His Banner Over Me is Love” with the verse “The devil is a stinker and we don’t like him, his power over me is none...” Also try singing “I’ve Got the Joy, Joy, Joy, Joy Down in My Heart” with the verses “If the devil doesn’t like it he can sit on a tack! (Ouch!)” and “If the devil doesn’t like it he can swallow a bomb, (Boom!).” Other songs include “Little Square Box,” and “Greater is He that is In Me.”
- Bring “Pigs in a Blanket” for snack. These are easy to make. Simply wrap half of a crescent roll around small smoky sausages.
- Play “Pin the Tail on the Pig, “ or a basketball game of H-O-R-S-E but spelling P-I-G instead.