

LESSON PLAN

JESUS HEALS A WILD MAN

Mark 5:1-20

Lesson Memory Verse: Mark 5:20 - “**And he** departed, and **began to publish** in Decapolis **how great things Jesus had done for him:** and all men did marvel.” (Grades 1 & 2 memorize the portion in **bold**.)

Lesson Aim: We should tell others the great things that Jesus has done for us.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY (for Attention): Bring a string, a rope and a chain to class. Let the children try to break the string; then let them try to break the rope. When they are convinced that they cannot break the rope, then say to them that the story you are going to tell them is about a man that was so strong that he could even break the chains that men used to tie him up (show them a strong chain).

HE (for Authority): The man in our story was made strong by the power of demons in him, but Jesus was stronger and commanded the demons to leave him. After Jesus saved him from his sins, Jesus told him to tell his friends what He had done for him. The man obeyed Jesus and began to tell (“to publish”) to others in Decapolis (an association of ten cities in the area around the Sea of Galilee) what great things Jesus had done for him. We will learn about these great things in our story today. When the men heard this man’s story, they were amazed (“did marvel”).

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scripture for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word. Our story today will show you how powerful Jesus is and what great things He did for a man that was a slave to thousands of demons.

I. The Wretchedness of the Wild Man - Mark 5:1-5

After the great windstorm that the disciples had experienced at sea, Jesus had them sail to the country of the Gadarenes. As soon as Jesus got out of the ship, a wild man met Him. He was filled with many, many demons. He was so wild that no one could tie him up, not even with chains. He lived in the tombs of dead men and cried day and night, cutting himself with stones. Just one look at him would make you afraid to be near him. He lived an terrible life.

WE: We may not realize it, but anyone that has not received Jesus Christ as his Savior is no better than this wild man. Why do you think that I said that? (Let them answer the question, if they can.) You see, we look at a person that has not sinned too much as a better person than the one that has sinned many times. But God is offended by one sin as much as He is offended by many sins. He will not allow anyone into Heaven with any sins. That is why we need to ask Jesus to cleanse us from all of our sins, or else we will be in as much trouble as the wild man in this true story.

II. The Worship of the Wild Man - Mark 5:6-8

When the wild man saw Jesus, he came running to Jesus. The disciples must have wondered in fear as to what he was going to do. Would he try to kill Jesus? No, he came to do just the opposite. He came to worship Jesus. He cried out in a loud voice that he knew that Jesus was the Son of God. Probably that was the evil spirit speaking through the wild man’s lips, but even so, an evil spirit must confess that Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus immediately told the unclean spirit in him to leave the wild man. When the evil spirit departed, the wild man could freely worship Jesus as the Son of God.

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WE: We may not have an unclean spirit in us, but we all have unclean sins in our lives until we receive Jesus as our Savior and ask Him to cleanse us from all of our sins. Have you come to Jesus to receive Him as your Savior and asked Him to forgive you of all your sins?

III. The Wickedness of the Wild Man - Mark 5:9-13

When Jesus asked for the name of the unclean spirit which was in the wild man, He was told it was Legion because there were many demons in him. A legion in the Roman army was 6,000 men, but we cannot be sure that there were 6,000 demons in the wild man. However, there were enough demons to destroy 2,000 pigs in a very short time. When the demons were cast out of the wild man, the demons begged Jesus to allow them to enter into the pigs. Jesus gave His permission to them and the wicked demons caused the pigs to go crazy; they ran into the sea where they were drowned. The wickedness in the wild man was caused by these unclean demons. They were very wicked and sinful.

WE: We must never play around with evil spirits by trying to talk to them or by asking them to do tricks for us. This is very foolish because the evil spirits are workers for Satan, and they will capture people who show an interest in Satan. If we let demons work in our lives or come into our bodies, we will become slaves of Satan. Then we will do all the sinful things that he tells us to do.

IV. The Well-being of the “Wild Man” - 5:14-17

After Jesus cast the demons out of the wild man, he was made well. When the people of the city came out to see what had happened, they saw the “wild man” was no longer wild. He was healed. He was sitting down and had put on clothes and was in his right mind. This was so unusual that they were afraid of Jesus. He had healed a wild man with His great power. But when they heard what had happened to their pigs, they asked Jesus to leave their country. They were angry that they had lost their pigs. They were more concerned about their pigs than they were about the soul of the wild man who needed to be saved.

WE: Are we more concerned about our pets than we are about people’s souls? Don’t be like these city folks who loved their pigs more than the soul of this man. We need to help people come to Jesus Christ so they can be cleansed of all their sins. The souls of people are more valuable than anything else in the world.

V. The Witness of the “Wild Man” - Mark 5:18-20

The “wild man” was really saved from his sins by Jesus and he wanted to stay with Him. But Jesus told him that he was to go home to his friends and tell them what the Lord had done for him. The man did not argue, but did what Jesus told him to do. He went to his home and told his friends and neighbors what Jesus had done for him. His friends were amazed at what they heard. They could hardly believe it.

WE: If we have been saved from our sins by Jesus Christ, He wants us to tell others what He has done for us. If we love Jesus, we will obey what He tells us to do (Jn 14:15). I hope and pray that you will be a good witness for Jesus. Jesus needs us to tell others how He cleansed our lives and changed us so we could live better lives.

BE (for Action): Have the children count the things that Jesus did for the “wild man.” Next, have them count the things that Jesus has done for them. Then tell them that Jesus wants those who have been cleansed and changed by Jesus to tell their family and friends about Him. Ask someone to pray and ask Jesus to help them to tell someone about Him this week.