

Study Guide #18 (Leader's Guide): K-group Bible Study for Week of March 11, 2018

Title of the Lesson: Personal Testimony

This week's bible passage talks about the power and impact of telling others "what God has done for you" (Mark 5:19).

- Remind your group that one of the discipleship skills that we want to develop this year is the ability to verbalize scripture to people with whom we will have the opportunity to minister. So we will continue to ask one of you to tell the bible story from memory.
- So, let's give our undivided attention to _____ as he/she verbalizes tonight's bible study passage.

Mark 5:1-20

¹ They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. ² When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. ³ This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. ⁴ For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. ⁵ Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

⁶ When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. ⁷ He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God's name don't torture me!" ⁸ For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you impure spirit!"

⁹ Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" "My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." ¹⁰ And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area.

¹¹ A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. ¹² The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." ¹³ He gave them permission, and the impure spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

¹⁴ Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. ¹⁵ When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. ¹⁶ Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well. ¹⁷ Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.

¹⁸ As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. ¹⁹ Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." ²⁰ So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

Questions

- Now, let's open our bibles to Mark 5:1-20. Let's review the scripture and look for details that need to be emphasized and remembered.
- After clarifying what the bible says, ask what resonated with you the most and why?
- Context: The story that precedes this bible passage reveals that Jesus took his disciples on a very dangerous night voyage across the Sea of Galilee in order to meet this hurting man from the other side of the lake. This was definitely not familiar territory to Jesus or his disciples in that it was a Gentile area. What does this say about Jesus and his heart/mission?
- How does the bible describe the man that Jesus went to meet (be specific)?
- What do we learn about demons from this story?
- Why do you think the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region (vs. 17)? How did Jesus respond to their request?
- Why do you think Jesus did not let the man go back to Galilee with him? Instead, Jesus told the man to do something. What was it?
- We might say that Jesus told the man to go and share his testimony with his family. A testimony is simply one's personal "faith story" of how he/she came to believe in Jesus and become a follower of him. It also shares the positive results of that commitment (i.e., describes "what the Lord has done for you"). Verse 20 gives us a report on whether or not the man obeyed Jesus. What did he do and what was the immediate result?
- Additionally, according to Mark 5:20, the area that they were in was called the Decapolis. The next time Jesus returns to this area is in Mark 7:31. Once he arrives, he is greeted by a large crowd of 4,000 people interested in hearing him teach (see Mark 8:1-9). Do you think that the formerly demon possessed man had anything to do with these people's interest in Jesus?
- Tonight, we would like to use the rest of our time to work on shaping our salvation testimonies. The goal of this exercise is to be better equipped to share our "faith stories" with non-believers in hopes of attracting them to Christ.
 - Pass out work sheets. Ask each person to write a rough draft of their story using the prompts.
 - After everyone finishes, coach them on looking over their testimonies and making sure that you remove any confusing "churchy words" and also that one's story reveals how to become a Christian.
- Next, take turns sharing your testimonies with each other.
- Finally, challenge the group to find at least one person to share their testimony with during the next week (preferably a lost person, but if you need to practice on a Christian at first, that is okay too).

Close with prayer. Pray specifically for the people that God is putting on each person's heart. Pray that the group can follow through with what God has put on their hearts to do.