

SUMMER IN THE SON: *Lessons from the Life of Christ*

Week 5 • July 23 • Jesus' Power Over Evil (Mark 5:1-20)

Theme: Jesus Is Lord over All Things, Good and Evil

Today's Bible story is about a man who lived far away from other people because something was wrong with him. Everything changed when Jesus showed up, though.

Jesus has power over evil. Only Jesus has the strength to control the man with the evil spirits. Jesus uses His power to free the man. He has power over everything. Jesus came to earth to destroy the Devil by dying on the cross. One day, Jesus will end evil forever.

Family Devotional

Materials: A nerf ball or other small, soft object. A clean garbage can or other "basket" type container.

Do: Place the garbage can/basket in the center of the group. Invite the kids to play a game of "Key Passage Basketball." Give the foam ball to each kid in turn. When it's their turn, they should recite the key verse (John 11:25-26) from memory (or read it if they haven't memorized it) and then shoot a basket.

Say: Jesus gives eternal life to everyone who trusts in Him as Lord and Savior. For believers, physical death is not the end. We will be raised from the dead to live with God forever. Do you believe this?

Big Question: Who has power over evil? Jesus is Lord over all things, good and evil.

Explain: On the other side of the Sea of Galilee was a land called Gergesa (GUHR guh suh). The people who lived there were not Jews. When Jesus got out of His boat, a man ran to Him. The man had a hard life. He had an evil spirit in him that caused him to suffer and hurt himself or others. People had tried to control the man, but the evil spirit inside him was too strong. The man lived alone in caves.

Read: Mark 5:1-20.

Say: When Jesus freed the man from the power of the evil spirit, the man wanted to follow Jesus. Instead, Jesus told him to go home and tell his people the good news of what Jesus had done.

Ask: Did you notice that our big picture answer says that Jesus is Lord? That means He has power over all things. He is in control of everything. We can trust Him as the Lord of our lives because He is good.

Who has power over evil? Jesus is Lord over all things, good and evil.

Pray: Dear God, we know that evil is real. Good and bad exists in the world, and You are Lord over all things. Help us to trust in You when we face evil and suffering. Thank You for sending Jesus to die on the cross and set us free from the power of sin. We have hope because we know that Jesus wins against evil, and one day He will end evil forever. Come, Lord Jesus. We love You. Amen.