

# THE KING OF KINGS



## MIRACLES OF JESUS

SUNDAY SCHOOL  
SESSION #2

JESUS CASTS OUT  
UNCLEAN SPIRITS

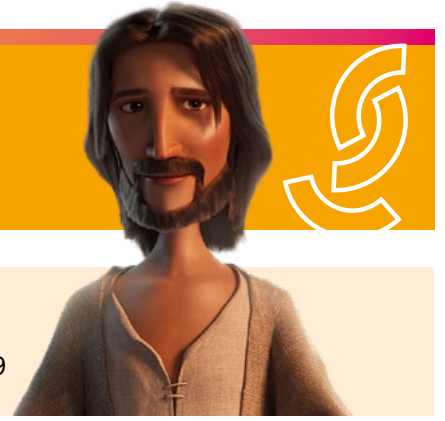
JESUS' POWER  
...OVER EVIL



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## SESSION #2

### JESUS CASTS OUT UNCLEAN SPIRITS

MARK 5:1–20, MATTHEW 8:31–32, LUKE 8:26–39

## ICEBREAKER

### PAPER CHAIN FEARS

As children arrive, give them strips of coloured paper and pens. Invite them to draw or write something they feel afraid of (e.g., spiders, storms, darkness, etc.). For younger children, adults can help them write. As they finish, help them link the strips together to make a long paper chain. Tell the children that in today's story, we will hear about a man who was so scary to the people around him that they put him in real chains. But Jesus met him—and everything changed. Hang the chain where everyone can see.

*The King of Kings* is very faithful to Scripture, sometimes incorporating details from multiple gospels in its retelling of different events and miracles. Make sure the children know that just because some things in the clip might be slightly different than the passage, it doesn't necessarily mean they 'did it wrong'. Rather, each gospel gives us different details about the same events—just like fans seeing different angles of the same goal in a football match—and *The King of Kings* wanted to incorporate many of these details. If you have a mature group, you could read from multiple accounts, as listed in the key scriptures section above.

### MARK 5:1–20

*They went across the Sea of Galilee to the area of the Gerasenes. Jesus got out of the boat. A man controlled by an evil spirit came from the tombs to meet him. The man lived in the tombs. No one could keep him tied up anymore. Not even a chain could hold him. His hands and feet had often been chained. But he tore the chains apart. And he broke the iron cuffs on his ankles. No one was strong enough to control him. Night and day he screamed among the tombs and in the hills. He cut himself with stones.*

*When he saw Jesus a long way off, he ran to him. He fell on his knees in front of him. He shouted at the top of his voice, 'Jesus, Son of the Most High God, what do you want with me? Swear to God that you won't hurt me!' This was because Jesus had said to him, 'Come out of this man, you evil spirit!'*

*Then Jesus asked the demon, 'What is your name?'*

*'My name is Legion,' he replied. 'There are many of us.' And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area.*

*A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. The demons begged Jesus, 'Send us among the pigs. Let us go into them.' Jesus allowed it. The evil spirits came out of the man and went into the pigs. There were about 2,000 pigs in the herd. The whole herd rushed down the steep bank. They ran into the lake and drowned.*

*Those who were tending the pigs ran off. They told the people in the town and countryside what had happened. The people went out to see for themselves. Then they came to Jesus. They saw the man who had been controlled by* →

## READ



## READ CONT.

*many demons. He was sitting there. He was now dressed and thinking clearly. All this made the people afraid. Those who had seen it told them what had happened to the man. They told about the pigs as well. Then the people began to beg Jesus to leave their area.*

*Jesus was getting into the boat. The man who had been controlled by demons begged to go with him. Jesus did not let him. He said, 'Go home to your own people. Tell them how much the Lord has done for you. Tell them how kind he has been to you.' So the man went away. In the area known as the Ten Cities, he began to tell how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.*

## WATCH

Watch the clip of *The King of Kings* and see if you notice any differences from what we read. (Remember, some of these differences are because the gospel writers give different details.) If you have a very keen group, you can hand out papers for the children to make notes on what they notice in the clip.

## IMAGINE

You can use the following script, or read the Scripture again, inviting the children to imagine what they see, feel, smell and hear throughout. Read slowly, pausing after each question to allow the kids to imagine themselves in the scene. The imagining can be done in quiet, or you can take responses as you go.

If you have children for whom sitting still is challenging, consider handing out a fidget toy or having them draw the scene while you read the following lines:

“ Now I want you to imagine that you are there, just like the little boy Walter imagines himself watching Jesus do this miracle. Jesus can use our imagination to help us understand the story better. So let's pray, Holy Spirit, please help us to really see what it was like to be there with you. Now everyone, close your eyes, fold your hands in your lap and take a deep breath...

*You step out of the boat with Jesus. What do you see around you? Can you see the hills, the sea, the tombs? What does the ground feel like under your feet? Is it rocky? Dry? The air is still. What can you smell? Maybe animals? Wet caves?*

*Suddenly, you hear a loud, wild cry. How does it make you feel? What can you see? The man shouts at Jesus. What do his words sound like? What does Jesus' voice sound like when he answers?*

*Nearby, pigs are grazing. What do they smell like? What sounds do they make?*

*When the man screams and the pigs rush into the water, what sounds do you hear? Splashing? Squealing? What do the people do? Do they run? Shout?*

*Now look at the man sitting quietly. What does his face look like now? What is he wearing? How is his body sitting? If you were him, how would you feel? How do the people around him feel? What would you want to say to Jesus? →*



## DISCUSSION

What did everyone imagine? Have a time of open sharing where the children describe what they imagined. Be sure to highlight whether this time of imagining gave them any insights or new ideas about the Bible story.

### DISCUSSION QUESTION:

**Why wasn't Jesus afraid of the man, when everyone else was? If Jesus is in our hearts, should we be afraid of anything?**

We all love superhero stories, good versus evil with our favourite hero battling his latest nemesis! We love to see the hero defeat the bad guy—we probably wouldn't enjoy the story too much if they didn't. Good and evil are not just for the movies, all around us we see things that are good and things that are evil.

Today's story might seem a little scary—we meet a man who has to live away from people in the caves because they are so afraid of him. But this man is not just sick, he has evil living inside him—the Bible calls it an 'unclean spirit.' The man is not fully in control of what he is doing, and so many people are afraid of him... but Jesus isn't afraid of him, and we don't need to be either. Jesus doesn't use any weapons or superpowers to fight this evil. He simply speaks—and the unclean spirits come out. Jesus is stronger than they are.

The spirits go into a herd of pigs nearby, and the pigs run off a cliff into the lake and drown. This might seem like a strange part of the story, but it tells us something important: the evil really left the man. It wasn't just pretend—something powerful and dangerous was removed from him completely.

When Jesus died on the cross and rose again, he defeated all evil once and for all. He broke the chains so that we could live in freedom, like the man in this story.

**Jesus has all the power over evil, and he came to set us free!**

*If you used the icebreaker activity, pick up the paper chain now and tell the children that Jesus has power over all of our fears as well. Why not pray over this paper chain and then break it to symbolise that Jesus has all the power over the things that make us anxious and afraid.*

## QUIZ

### TEAM QUIZ

If your group is large enough, split the group into quiz teams with answer sheets. The groups can come up with team names and answer the following questions together, with a prize or trophy for the winning group. (Try gluing a figurine on top of a block or a plastic cup for a silly trophy—spray-paint it gold or silver to go the extra mile!)

If your group enjoys this activity, you could repeat it in future weeks, and the trophy can get passed along to the new winning team. ➔



## QUIZ CONT.

**Q:** Where did Jesus and his friends go when they crossed the lake?

**A:** *To the region of the Gerasenes (or Gadarenes).*

**Q:** Who came running to Jesus when he arrived?

**A:** *A man with an unclean spirit.*

**Q:** Where did the man live?

**A:** *In the tombs (a graveyard), outside of the town.*

**Q:** What did the man do night and day?

**A:** *He cried out and hurt himself with stones.*

**Q:** What did Jesus tell the unclean spirits to do?

**A:** *To come out of the man.*

**Q:** Where did Jesus allow the unclean spirits to go?

**A:** *Into a herd of pigs nearby.*

**Q:** What happened to the pigs?

**A:** *They ran down a hill into the lake and drowned.*

**Q:** What did Jesus tell the man to do after he was healed?

**A:** *Go home and tell his family how much the Lord had done for him.*

## CRAFT

### MAKING A CALM JAR

We will make some glitter-filled calm jars, so that as the jars are shaken up and settle back down, we can remember how the chaos and evil inside this man were healed by Jesus. We can also go to Jesus when we feel afraid, shaken up or confused, and he will give us peace too. This could also be a good opportunity to discuss the things the children wrote on their paper chains.

(You will find the process for making the craft on next page.)

## PRAYER

*Jesus, thank you for this story that shows us you are more powerful than the bad things in the world. We don't need to be afraid of anything when we remember that you have defeated evil once and for all. Amen.*



## CALM JAR

We recommend making one calm jar in advance to show the children what it will look like, to plan how much of each material you will need for your group, and to see how the addition of glue affects the movement of the glitter.

## MATERIALS

- ✓ small clear plastic bottles or jars with lids
- ✓ water
- ✓ glitter (fine glitter works best)
- ✓ a few drops of food colouring (optional)
- ✓ clear glue (optional, to slow down the glitter)
- ✓ labels or paper for writing
- ✓ pens

## METHOD

1. Fill the jar about  $\frac{3}{4}$  full with water.
2. Add glitter and a few drops of food colouring, if you like.
3. (Optional) Add a squeeze of clear glue to make the glitter move more slowly.
4. Close the lid tightly (seal with glue if needed).
5. On a label or piece of paper, write: '**Jesus brings me peace.**' Let the children decorate the label and stick it on the jar.
6. Shake the jar. Watch the glitter swirl like the wild man. As it settles, talk about how Jesus brought peace to this poor man in the story.



## UP NEXT...

**SESSION #3: JESUS HEALS A PARALYSED MAN**