

## Lesson 11

### Jesus Sets a Man Free

**Bible Text:** Luke 8:26-39; Mark 5:1-17 Jesus shows His authority over the devil and delivers a man with an evil spirit.

**Bible Truth:** I will be kind to those who need help.

**Bible Verse:** The Spirit of the Lord God is on me. The Lord has chosen and sent me to tell the good news, to comfort the brokenhearted, and to announce freedom for captives. Isaiah 61:1 (CEV abridged)

### For the Teacher

Jesus, the Son of God, used His authority to set a demon-possessed man free. He then showed compassion for the man who now wanted to follow him. The townspeople were frightened of this display of God's power and begged Jesus to leave but if we are committed to Jesus, we need never fear the power of the devil.

LESSON SEGMENT	TIME	SEGMENT DESCRIPTION	SUPPLIES & PREPARATION
Focus on God's Word	7 min.	Game: Chain Tag	Space to run.
Learn God's Word	18 min.	Luke 8:26-39; Mark 5:1-17	Visuals 11a, 11b.
Memorize God's Word	8 min.	Bible Verse: Isaiah 61:1 Bible Verse Activity: Verse Chain	Write the words of the verse on the board. Write one to two words of the verse on strips of paper. Make several sets. Tape.
Connect with God's Word	12 min.	Discussion and Prayer Response	
Bible Truth	8 min.	I will be kind to those who need help. Prayer Response	Motions
Act on God's Word	8 min	Activity: Share the Good News Craft: Paper Chain	Discussion. Colored paper cut into strips, tape or stapler.
Review God's Word	12 min.	Review Questions Review Activity: Everyone Helps! Game: Freeze Tag	2 beanbags (or 2 soft toys).



## FOCUS ON GOD'S WORD

### Game: Chain Tag

**Note:** Have the kids play this game for a few minutes.

**How to Play:** *Have the kids spread out in the room. Choose two kids to start the game. They link arms to start the chain. After the starting signal, they run together to try to tag another player. Once they tag another player, that player then joins the chain by linking arms with the first two. Then the three players run together, but only the two kids on each end may tag players. The chain will get longer and longer. This continues until all players are tagged.*

**When you are tagged in Chain Tag, you are not free to run where you want. You must go where the chain takes you. You need someone to set you free. That's like the man in our Bible account today. His life was controlled by an evil spirit. He was no longer free to do what he wanted but had to do what the demon told him.**

**Demons were once angels who served God. Then one day they rebelled against God and refused to obey Him anymore. Because of their sin, God threw them out of heaven. Satan is the leader of these evil spirits. Satan and his demons are still at work today, trying to destroy God's good plans and purposes. They can try, but they cannot succeed because Jesus defeated Satan on the cross.**

**There are still some people today that are controlled by evil spirits. Jesus came to set them free. We don't ever have to be afraid of demons because Jesus is more powerful.**

**Today we will learn what happened when Jesus met the man held captive by a demon.**



## LEARN GOD'S WORD

*(Open your Bible to Luke 8.)*

**Jesus taught all day long by the Sea of Galilee. When evening came, He said to His disciples, "Let's go over to the other side of the lake." So they got in a boat and sailed across the lake.**

**A certain man lived on the other side of the lake. This man was controlled by an evil spirit. People were afraid of him because he acted crazy. Sometimes he was so wild that the townspeople had to put chains on his hands and his feet so he couldn't hurt himself.**

**He had not worn clothes for a long time and no longer lived in a house, but in caves in the hills where the dead are buried. This poor man was terribly unhappy. He needed help.**

**Jesus and the disciples got out of the boat right where this man was living. When the man with the evil spirit saw Jesus, he ran to Him, cried out, and fell at Jesus' feet. He shouted very loudly, "Jesus, Son of the Most High God, what do you want with me? Please, don't hurt me!" *(Display visual 11a.)***

Jesus knew that this man had demons inside him. He said, “Come out of this man, you evil spirit!” “What is your name?”

The demon replied, “My name is Many.” The demon used this name because many, many demons were inside the man. The demons were afraid of Jesus. They begged Him not to send them into the deep pit, where they would be punished.

A large herd of about two thousand pigs were feeding on that hillside. The demons begged Jesus to let them go into the pigs, and Jesus allowed it. What do you think happened next? *(Allow responses.)* All those demons came out of the man and entered the pigs. And all two thousand pigs ran down the steep hill into the lake and drowned.

The men taking care of the pigs ran away and told everyone in the fields and in the town about it. *(Display visual 11b.)* The people came out to see what had happened. They found the man sitting at Jesus’ feet. He had put on clothes. He wasn’t acting crazy like he usually did, and he wasn’t shouting or cutting himself! He was behaving normally. Jesus had set him free.

The men told the people how Jesus had helped the demon-possessed man, and about the pigs that had drowned. When they heard what Jesus had done, everyone was so frightened they asked Jesus to go away and leave them alone.

As Jesus got into the boat to leave, the man He had set free asked to go with Him. He wanted to be with Jesus. But Jesus said, “Go home to your family and friends and tell them what Jesus did for you. Tell them how the Lord has set you free.”

So the man went all over town and told people how Jesus had set him free from the evil spirits.

We don't know how or why this man got into this terrible situation. But Jesus had compassion on him and set him free from evil spirits.

Jesus cares about everybody. He is kind to people who look and act differently to us like this man. Jesus knows just how to help them.



## MEMORIZE GOD’S WORD

**Bible Verse: The Spirit of the Lord God is on me. The Lord has chosen and sent me to tell the good news, to comfort the brokenhearted, and to announce freedom for captives. Isaiah 61:1**

Jesus is much more powerful than demons or even the devil himself. Jesus is the Son of God, and He has the power to set anyone free that the devil is trying to control.

*(Read the Bible verse on the board.)* Today’s Bible verse tells us: The Spirit of the Lord God is on me. The Lord has chosen and sent me to tell the good news, to comfort the brokenhearted, and to announce freedom for captives. Isaiah 61:1

That’s what Jesus did for the man in our story. He set him free. And now Jesus wants us to be kind to people who need help just as He was. When we follow Jesus, God’s Spirit

**lives in us too. God wants us to comfort those who are sad. He wants us to tell those people, whom the devil has taken prisoner, that Jesus has come to set them free.**

*(Take time to explain the difficult words in this verse and then have the kids repeat it together a few times.)*

### **Bible Verse Activity: Verse Chain**

*Cut several small strips of paper and write one or two words of the verse on each strip. Make 2 or more sets. Have the kids work in teams to put the strips in the correct order and tape them together like a chain. As each team finishes their chain, have them repeat the verse together.*



## **CONNECT WITH GOD'S WORD**

**What did you learn about Jesus in today's story?** *(Allow responses.)*

**The story shows us that Jesus has authority and power over the devil. It also shows us that Jesus is kind to all types of people.**

**How did Jesus show that He cared for the man with an evil spirit?** *(Allow responses.)*

**Jesus went all the way to the other side of the lake to help this man. Jesus didn't reject him because of the way he looked or acted. Jesus didn't run away when the man came to Him. Jesus didn't ignore him. Jesus showed kindness to the man by commanding the demons to come out him. He set him free.**

**Jesus was kind to all people, even those who weren't accepted by others. God loves everyone and He want us to be kind and friendly to everyone too.**

**Can you think of reasons you might not want to help someone or be friends with them?**

*Allow a time of discussion. (Reasons might include how someone looks, talks, acts, dresses, what their friends think of the person, etc.)*

**God wants us to be kind to everyone and try to be friendly even when someone looks different to us or when they can't do the things we do. He wants us to try to show love and kindness to everyone.**

**Before we pray, let's do our Bible Truth for the lesson.**



## **BIBLE TRUTH**

**Bible Truth: I will be kind to those who need help.**

*Have the kids say the Bible Truth a few times with motions.*

**I** - Point to yourself.

**will be kind** - Hands crossed at chest.

**to those** - Point out with two hands.

**who need help** - Use both hands to cover your eyes, then your ears, then your mouth.

### Prayer Response

*Have the kids sit in a circle: Let's all pray and ask God to help us be kind and friendly to everyone no matter what they are like. Ask God to show you how you can help them.*

*(Give the kids some time to pray quietly.)*

*Finish by thanking God that Jesus has all power over the devil, and we need never be afraid of evil spirits.*

**Leading a Child to Jesus:** As the Holy Spirit leads, explain the plan of salvation and pray with those kids who want to accept Jesus as their Savior. (See Teacher's Guide p.3 Leading a Child to Jesus.)



## ACT ON GOD'S WORD

**We believe in Jesus, the Son of God who is bigger than anything or anyone that might scare us. Jesus has power over demons, and He has power to set us free and change our lives! We should share this good news with others. Jesus told the man who had been set free from demons to go and tell his friends and family what God had done for him.**

### Activity: Share the Good News

**Is there someone in your school who doesn't seem to have many friends?**

**What can you do this week to be kind to them?**

**Is there someone you can tell about Jesus?**

*(Challenge the kids to find at least one person this week who seems lonely. Spend time with them and try to be a good friend.)*

### Craft: Paper Chain

**Supplies:** strips of colored paper, tape, or stapler

*Before class, cut paper into strips to make a chain. Give each child several strips of paper. On some of the strips, have them write the name of the friend from the activity **Share the Good News**. Then tape or staple the strips together to make a chain. Take the chain home as a reminder to be kind to others.*



## REVIEW GOD'S WORD

### Review Questions

1. Where did the man in the story live? (Across the lake; in the caves)
2. Why did he live there and not in the town? (He acted crazy. No one could control him.)
3. Why did people put chains on his hands and feet? (So he wouldn't hurt anyone.)
4. What did he do when he saw Jesus? (He ran to Him and fell at His feet.)
5. What was the name of the demon? (Many)
6. What did Jesus do for the man? (Set him free.)



7. Where did Jesus send the demons? (Into the herd of pigs)
8. What happened to the pigs? (They ran down the hill into the sea and drowned.)
9. What did Jesus tell the man to do after he was set free? (Go and tell everyone what God had done for him and how He had been kind to him.)

### **Review Activity: Everyone Helps!**

**Supplies:** 2 beanbags (or 2 soft toys).

*Have the kids line up at one end of the room. The teacher will stand at the other end. Give the first child in line a beanbag and tell him where to place it on his body. At the signal he must walk towards to the teacher without dropping the beanbag. If the beanbag falls, he must stand still. The last child in line runs over, picks up the beanbag, and puts it back in the same place. Then the child can continue walking to the teacher and answer the first review question. If he can't answer, he takes the beanbag to the next child in line who repeats the process. The first child goes to the back of the line. The kids may help each other find the correct answer.*

*Assign a different body part—forehead, elbow, shoulder, back, head, etc.—each time. Everyone is a winner in this game because everyone helps each other.*

### **Game: Freeze Tag**

*Choose one child to be “Ice Man” and another person to be “Free Man.” “Ice Man” chases the other kids to try to tag them as they run around the room. When Ice Man tags a player, he says ‘FREEZE.’ That player must freeze in place and may not move until “Free Man” taps him and says, ‘YOU’RE FREE.’ Have the kids play for a few minutes and then choose a new “Ice Man” and a new “Free Man.”*