

Demons Destroyed

Jesus casts out evil spirits
Mark 5:1-20

Character Trait: Joyful

(Estimated Lesson Time: 90 minutes)

Objectives:

- Children will identify that Jesus showed He is God by casting out evil spirits.
- Children will explain how God's great love is the source of our joy.
- Children will discuss two specific ways that they can share their joy with others.

Supplies:

- *Demons Destroyed* loaded onto a tablet or phone in the *Bible App for Kids*
- A picture of a sad face or emoticon *(prepared before the lesson)*
- A picture of a happy face or emoticon *(prepared before the lesson)*
- Pink or red paper *(one piece for each child)*
- Adhesive bandages *(one for each child)*
- Scissors
- Pens or pencils
- Coloring supplies *(optional)*

Welcome Activity:

(5 minutes)

Welcome the children.

SAY: Raise your hand if you know what an emoticon is. *(Call on a volunteer to share aloud. An emoticon is a small, simple image or picture that shows an emotion or feeling.)*

Next, hold up the two examples of emoticons and ask the children to identify what emotions they represent.

SAY: In today's lesson, we will learn about a man who went from sad *(hold up the sad face)* to joyful *(hold up the happy face)* because Jesus healed him!

Review:

(5 minutes)

Guide the children in a brief review of the previous lesson by asking the following:

- **Who were the men trying to help?** *(Their friend who could not walk)*
- **How did they get their friend to Jesus?** *(They tore up tiles and opened a hole in the roof.)*
- **What did Jesus say to the man who could not walk?** *("Your sins are forgiven.")*
- **What happened to the man?** *(He was healed!)*

Today's Bible Story:

(10-15 minutes)

Show *Demons Destroyed* from the *Bible App for Kids* or share the story aloud:

- Jesus and His disciples crossed the Sea of Galilee.
- They met a man with evil spirits, who lived in a cemetery.
- He screamed constantly and cut himself with stones.
- Jesus told the spirits to leave.
- "Don't hurt us, Jesus!" the spirits cried.
- "My name is Lots," said the man. "There are lots of evil spirits in me."
- "Well, you have to leave him," said Jesus. "You have no choice."
- The evil spirits were scared.
- There was a large herd of pigs nearby.
- "Then send us into the pigs!"
- Jesus let the evil spirits enter the pigs.
- The whole herd rushed down a steep bank into the lake and drowned!
- The people who took care of the pigs told everyone in town what had happened.
- The townspeople came to the cemetery.
- They saw that Jesus had made the man well.
- Frightened, the people begged Jesus to leave.
- The man asked to go with Jesus.
- Jesus replied, "Stay here. Tell everyone what I've done."
- The man did, and everyone was amazed!

Discussion:

(15 minutes)

Encourage the children to think more about the story by asking the following:

What was the name of the man Jesus and His disciples met? *(Lots)*

Why was he called this? *(He had lots of evil spirits in him.)*

What did Jesus tell the evil spirits they had to do? *(He said they had to leave Lots.)*

Where did the evil spirits go after they left Lots' body? *(They went into a herd of pigs nearby.)*

What did the herd of pigs do after the evil spirits entered them? *(The pigs rushed down a steep bank, fell into a lake, and drowned.)*

Lots wanted to go with Jesus. But what did Jesus tell him to do instead? *(Jesus told him to stay and tell everyone what He had done.)*

How did the evil spirits feel when Jesus spoke to them? *(They were scared.)*

The evil spirits were scared and had to obey Jesus. What does this tell you about Jesus? *(Answers will vary but should include that Jesus has the ultimate power and showed that He is God.)*

SAY: People were likely very afraid of Lots because he screamed constantly and cut himself with stones. But Jesus did something that only God could do: cast out evil spirits. In fact, even the evil spirits knew they had to obey Him. Afterwards, Lots was healed! He was joyful and grateful and wanted to follow Jesus. We can be joyful, too, because Jesus has provided healing for us, too. Through His death on the cross, Jesus provided a way to heal and forgive our hearts from sin.

God's Bigger Story:

(5 minutes)

SAY: Jesus showed who He is by doing things that only God can do. Only God can cast out evil spirits by just the power of His word. Jesus only spoke, and the man was healed.

Memory Verse:

(10 minutes)

A crowd soon gathered *(extend arms, then bring in to yourself)* **around Jesus,**
and they saw *(place hand over your brow and look around)*
the man who had been possessed *(cross fists tightly over chest)* **by the legion of demons.**
He was sitting there *(relax arms down, palms out)*
fully clothed and perfectly sane,
and they were all afraid *(gasp with wide eyes as if afraid)*.

Mark 5:15 (NLT UK)

Activity:

(15 minutes)

Select one child to be the "seeker." The seeker counts to 10 slowly as the remaining children hide. Then, the seeker calls out, "Ready or not, here I come!" and tries to find the children who are hiding. The last child found gets to be the seeker in the next round. Continue playing as time permits.

SAY: The evil spirits could not hide from Jesus. They knew who He was, and they feared Him!

Response Activity:

(10 minutes)

Provide each child with a piece of red or pink paper. Demonstrate how to carefully cut out a heart. Then, provide each child with two bandages and instruct them to overlap them in the center of their paper hearts to form the shape of a cross.

SAY: Jesus healed Lots by sending all the evil spirits away. Jesus heals our hearts by providing forgiveness from our sin.

For younger children...
The paper hearts can be cut out in advance of the lesson for younger children.

For older children...
Challenge older children to write down all the different names and titles for Jesus on their hearts. Help by sharing a few to get them started: God, Lamb of God, Christ, and Healer.

Character Trait: Joyful

(10 minutes)

SAY: To be joyful means to be happy. Lots became joyful after Jesus healed him by sending all the evil spirits out of him.

Encourage the children to think more about being joyful by asking the following:

- **What things bring you joy?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **What kinds of things that are not physical things make you joyful?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **Is being joyful a choice? Why or why not?** *(Answers will vary.)*
- **How can thinking about God's great love and Jesus' act of love on the cross make you joyful?** *(Answers will vary but should include that God's love and Jesus' forgiveness can never be taken away from us. When we focus on these, we can choose to be joyful no matter what.)*

Connect with Others:

(5 minutes)

SAY: God's great love is ours forever, and nothing can take it away. When we think about and focus on His love, it is easy for us to become so joyful that we overflow with love towards others, too.

Think of the different people in your daily life. *(Provide a moment of quiet think time.)* What are two specific ways that you can share your joy with these people? Turn to someone next to you and share. *(Provide a few moments for the children to do this. Then, call on a few volunteers to share aloud.)*

Closing:

(2 minutes)

SAY: Jesus proved that He is God by casting out evil spirits and healing Lots. Even the evil spirits knew Jesus and feared Him. However, like Lots, we can be joyful! When we accept Jesus' free gift of forgiveness through His death on the cross, Jesus heals us, too. Jesus can heal our hearts.

Prayer:

(2 minutes)

SAY:

Dear God,
How joyful we are to know that You love each of us so very much! Help us to focus on Your love so that our joy overflows and points others to You.
Amen.

Notes