

# JESUS RESTORES A DEMON POSSESSED MAN

## MARK 5:1-20

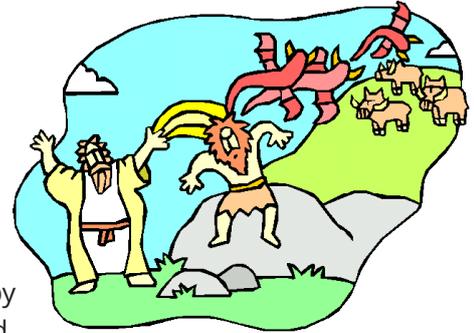


**Parents Notes**  
**Sunday 13th October, 2019**

**We are learning today:** Jesus changes lives for the better

### Summary

Jesus crossed the lake into Gentile territory and met this demon possessed man who was uncontrollable and even chains could not hold him. Though the idea of an evil spirit living in someone seems strange to us, it was very real for this man and impacted his whole life. He was an outcast and lived by the tombs being tormented day and night. Perhaps living amongst the dead reminds us that the 'real him' seemed dead and that he was being controlled like a puppet. The demons in him recognise Jesus as the Son of the Most High God and beg Jesus not to destroy them but instead allow them to enter the herd of pigs. The demons may be powerful and unruly, but they have to answer to Jesus.



The death of these pigs might seem very cruel to us, but it shows how much Jesus valued the man's restoration. Whilst most of us would be happy for pigs to die for bacon and sausages, Jesus achieves something better than that – this man gets his life back. This man's transformation is unmissable. He is dressed, calm and in his right mind. Yet, the town don't seem very impressed, but afraid. These pigs were viewed as a business commodity by their gentile owners, and they were annoyed at their financial loss. They valued their money more than seeing people restored and knowing Jesus and asked Jesus to get out of town. The restored man, on the other hand, asked to follow Jesus but was told to go to his own people and tell them what Jesus had done for him.

Jesus changed this man's life. He went from being dangerous and controlled by evil, to wanting to follow Jesus. Jesus today still changes lives for the better. Murderers become preachers and healers, and sinners like you and me become children on God. For children from a Christian home, they might not easily see how Jesus could need to change them but our selfish attitudes reveal that on the inside our sinful hearts love ourselves rather than God. We need Jesus to transform us so that we love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength.

### Try at home

Discuss and pray: What about you do you want Jesus to change?

Do you believe Jesus could really change anyone?

If your child is worried about the demons in this story, point out that Jesus is stronger and that anyone who follows Jesus does not need to worry about them. To explain how the man was controlled by a demon, you could use the illustration of a puppet. The man was in charge of his own body or mind.

### Memory verse

*'It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.'* (Mark 2:17)

