

Open Bible Stories — Jesus Heals a Demon-Possessed Man and a Sick Woman

Introduction

Key Idea

The story of Jesus healing the demon-possessed man and a sick woman teaches us that Jesus has power over the spiritual world and sickness.

Core Belief Verse

*"For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have been filled in him, who is the head of all rule and authority."
Colossians 2:9-10*

God's Big Story

The eternal God created all things in six days.

He made a good and perfect world.

He made humans in his image to fill the earth and rule over creation.

But humans rebelled against God and ruined God's creation.

God set to restore his world through his promise.

God made a covenant with Abraham. He promised to bless all nations through Abraham.

God kept his promises across the generations.

God provided Abraham with a promised child, Isaac.

God gave Isaac a wife, and she bore twins Jacob and Esau.

God blessed Jacob and his sons, and the blessing continued to the next generation.

God rescued Joseph, one of Jacob's sons, and used him to rescue his family.

God caused his people, the Israelites, to multiply in the land of Egypt; eventually, they became slaves.

But God raised up a deliverer, Moses, to deliver his people from their slavery.

God judged the Egyptians with harsh plagues; in the final judgment, he passed over his people, who covered their doorposts with the blood of a sacrificed lamb.

Then, God delivered the Israelites by bringing them out of Egypt and crossing the Red Sea on dry land.

God made a covenant with the Israelites and made them his people.

God tested Israel in a series of wilderness wanderings and eventually brought his people into the promised land of Canaan.

God raised up deliverers to lead Israel and rescue them from their enemies.

God formed Israel into a kingdom. He made a covenant with King David and promised to send a king that would rule his people forever.

Many of Israel's kings were evil, and the kingdom of Israel was divided into two kingdoms.

God sent prophets to warn his people of God's judgment and call them to repent.

When Israel did not repent, God sent his people into exile. After many years, he brought them back to the land.

Throughout the Old Testament, God promised to send his Messiah to deliver his people from their sin.

After many years, the prophet John was born. He would prepare people for the coming Messiah.

At the perfect time, God sent his Son, Jesus, to be born of a virgin Mary.

When John and Jesus grew up, John baptized Jesus as a sign that Jesus was God's beloved Son.

Jesus endured all manner of temptation without ever sinning.

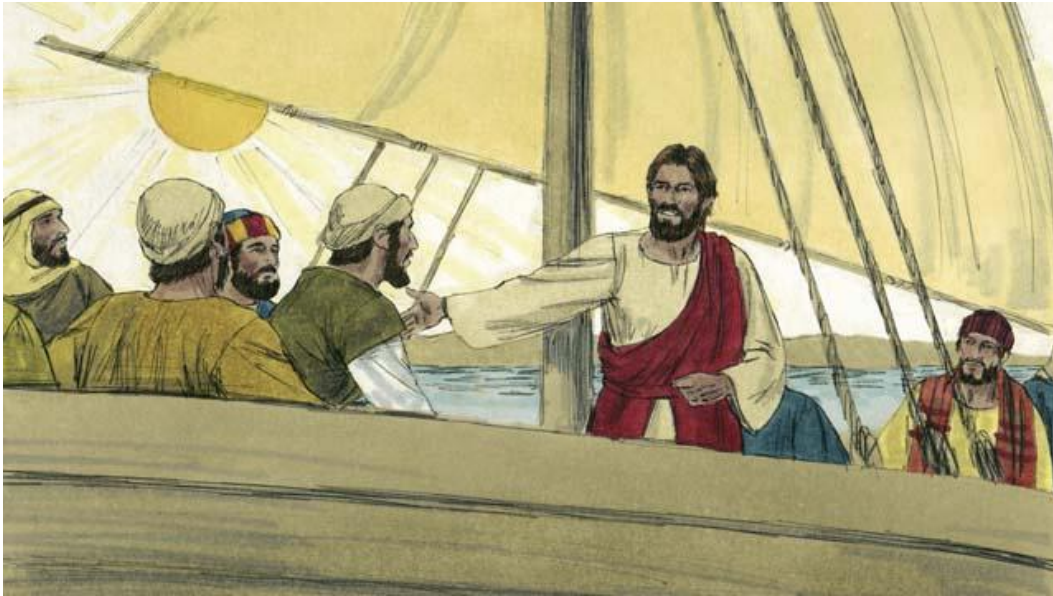
When he was thirty years old, he launched a public ministry of preaching, teaching, and healing.

He taught his disciples about the life of compassion, sacrifice, and forgiveness.

Jesus performed many miracles: he fed a crowd of five thousand, he walked on water, he healed the sick, and he cast out demons.

The Story: Jesus Heals a Demon-Possessed Man and a Sick Woman

32-01



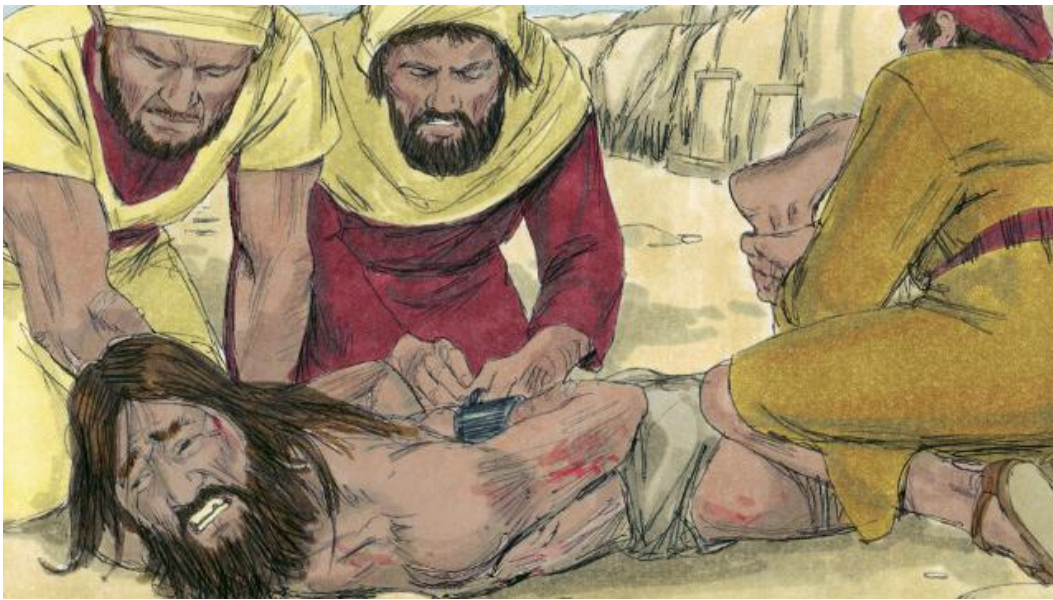
Jesus and his disciples went in their boat to the region where the Gerasene people lived. They reached land and got out of their boat.

32-02



Now there was a man there who was demon-possessed.

32-03



This man was so strong that nobody could control him. Sometimes people even fastened his arms and legs with chains, but he kept breaking them.

32-04



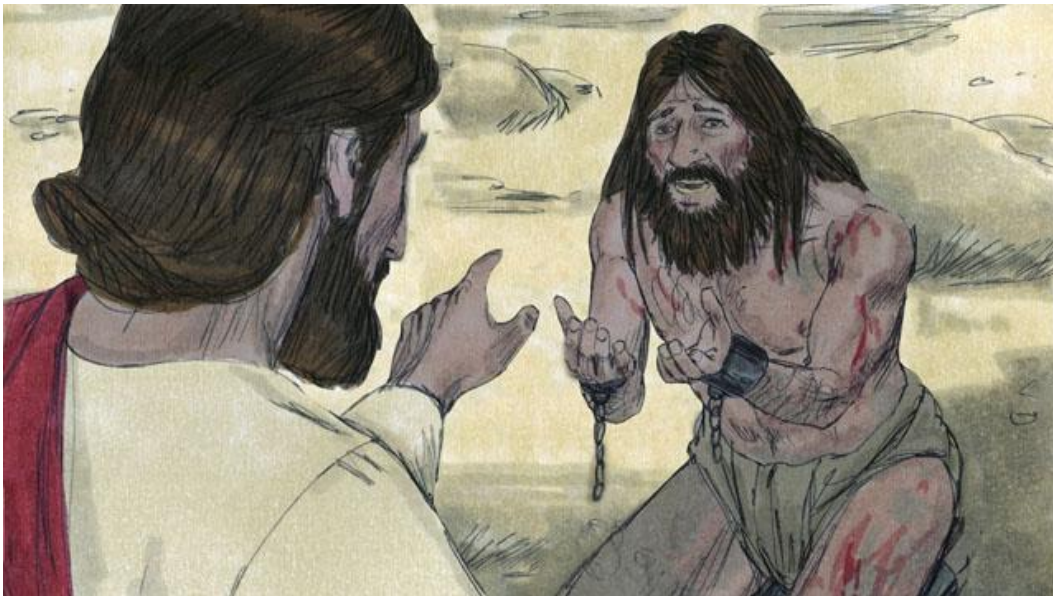
The man lived among the tombs in the area. This man would scream all day and all night. He did not wear clothes, and he often cut himself with stones.

32-05



This man ran up to Jesus and knelt down in front of him. Then Jesus spoke to the demon in the man and said, "Come out of this man!"

32-06



The demon cried out in a loud voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Please do not torture me!" Then Jesus asked the demon, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, because we are many."

32-07



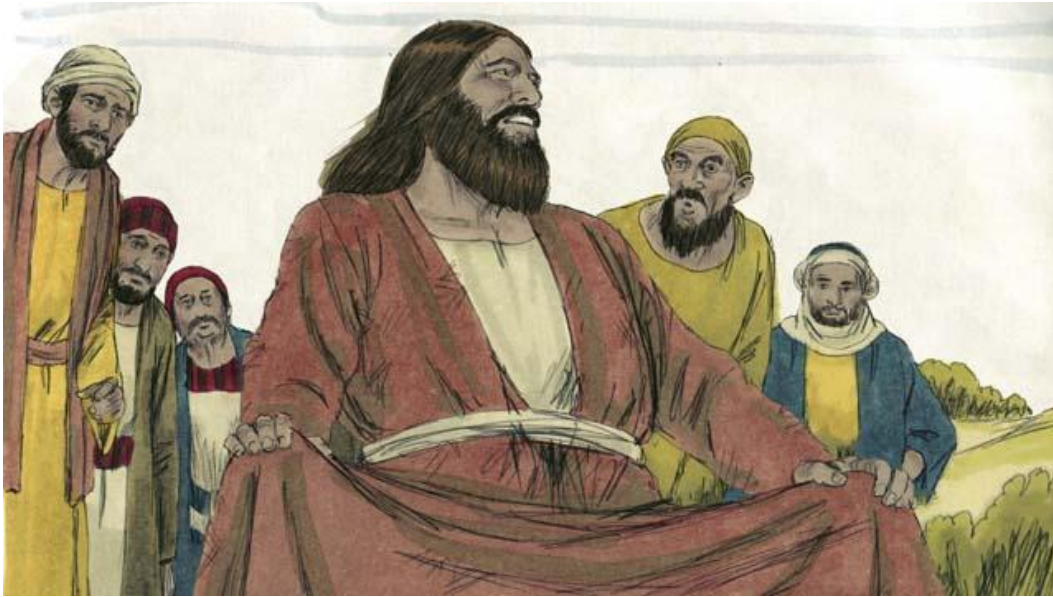
The demons begged Jesus, "Please do not send us out of this region!" There was a herd of pigs feeding on a nearby hill. So the demons begged Jesus, "Please send us into the pigs instead!" Jesus said, "Alright, go into them!"

32-08



So the demons came out of the man and entered the pigs. The pigs ran down a steep bank into the lake and drowned. There were about 2,000 pigs in the herd.

32-09



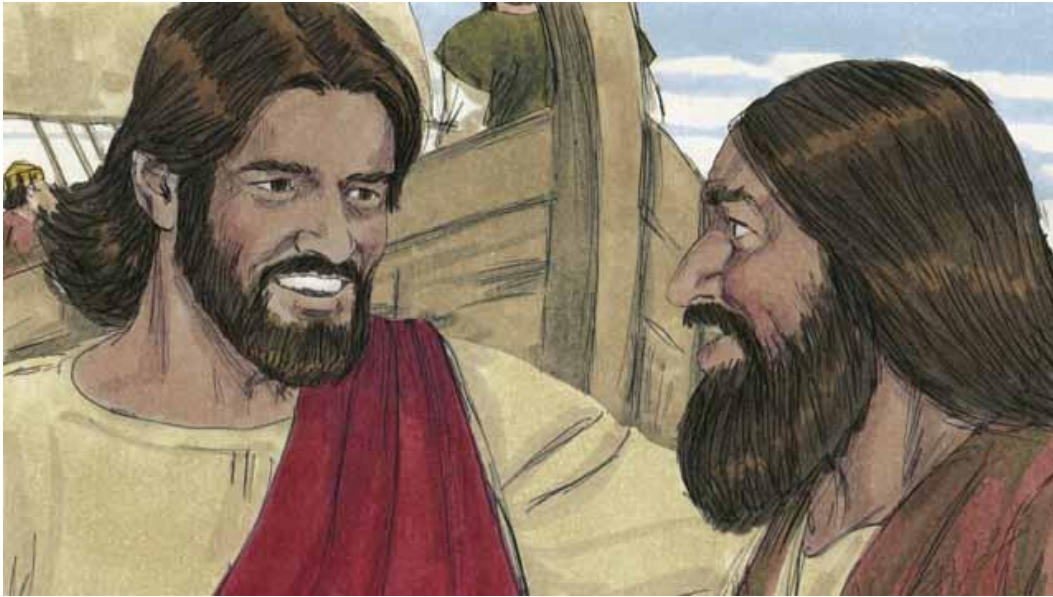
There were people taking care of those pigs. When they saw what happened, they ran into the town. There they told everyone what Jesus had done. The people from the town came and saw the man who used to have demons. He was sitting calmly, wearing clothes, and acting like a normal person.

32-10



The people were very afraid and asked Jesus to leave. So Jesus got into the boat. The man who used to have the demons begged to go along with Jesus.

32-11



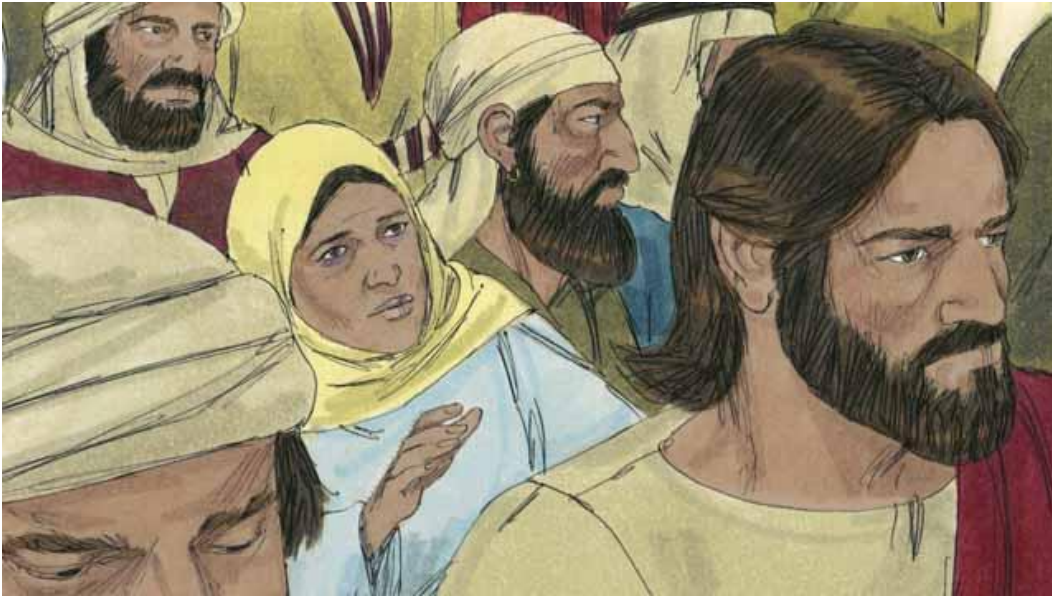
But Jesus said to him, "No. I want you to go home and tell everyone what God has done for you. Tell them how he has had mercy on you."

32-12



So the man went away and told everyone about what Jesus had done for him. Everyone who heard his story was amazed.

32-13



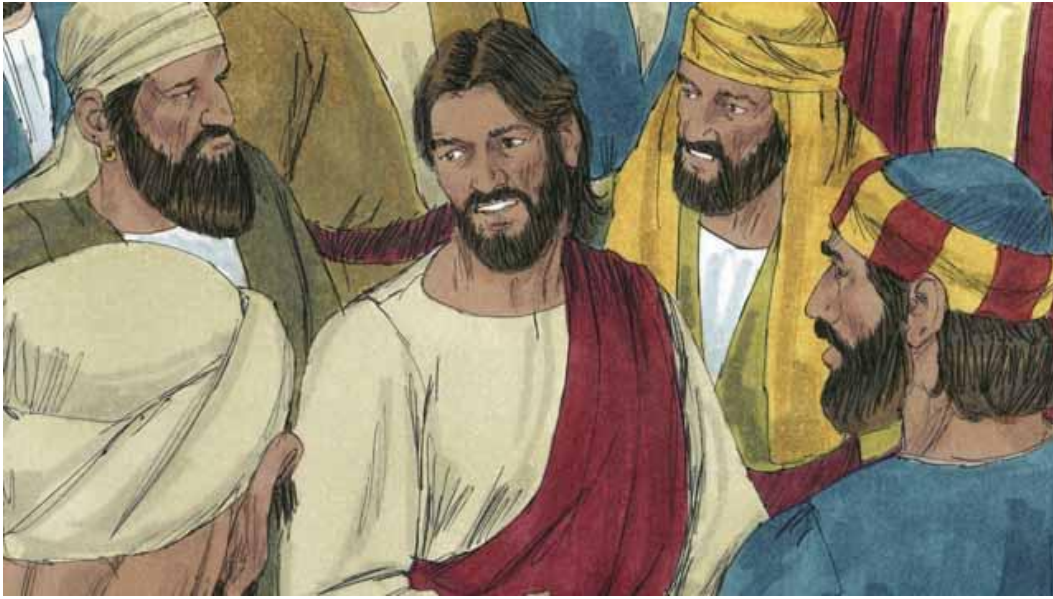
Jesus returned to the other side of the lake. After he arrived there, a large crowd gathered around him and pressed in on him. In the crowd was a woman who had suffered from a bleeding problem for 12 years. She had paid all of her money to doctors so they would heal her, but she only got worse.

32-14



She had heard that Jesus had healed many sick people and thought, "I'm sure that if I can just touch Jesus' clothes, then I will be healed too!" So she came up behind Jesus and touched his clothes. As soon as she touched them, the bleeding stopped!

32-15



Immediately, Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. So he turned around and asked, "Who touched me?" The disciples replied, "There are many people crowding around you and bumping into you. Why did you ask, 'Who touched me?'"

32-16



The woman fell on her knees before Jesus, shaking and very afraid. Then she told him what she had done and that she had been healed. Jesus said to her, "Your faith has healed you. Go in peace."

A Bible story from: Matthew 8:28-34; 9:20-22; Mark 5; Luke 8:26-48

Community Study: Armed for Battle—Equipping Ourselves for

Spiritual Warfare

Sing a Song (3-5 minutes)

Choose a song to sing to praise God and encourage one another.

Recite the Creedal Verse (3-5 minutes)

The verse below summarizes the teaching of the current passage.

Read the verse out loud as a

community. Read it again several times as a group until the whole community can recite it from memory.

For in him all the fullness of God lives in bodily form. You have been filled in him, who is the head

over every power and authority. Colossians 2:9-10

OR

For this reason the Son of God was revealed, so that he would destroy the devil's works. 1 John 3:8

Read the Passage (3-5 minutes)

As Christians follow Christ, they engage the life of faith as a spiritual battle/conflict. As a community, read

the following Bible passage together to understand what it means to be committed to Jesus and his work.

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.

11 Put on the whole armor of God,

so that you may be able to stand against the scheming plans of the devil. 12 For our struggle is not

against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers over this

present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore put on the

whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand in this time of evil, and after you have done

everything, to stand firm. 14 Stand, therefore, after you have put on the belt of truth and the breastplate of righteousness. 15 Then as shoes for your feet, put on the readiness to proclaim the gospel of peace. 16 In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, by which you will be able to put out all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17 And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 With every prayer and request, pray at all times in the Spirit. To this end, always be watching with all perseverance, as you offer prayers for all the saints. 19 And pray for me, that a message might be given to me when I open my mouth. Pray that I might make known with boldness the hidden truth about the gospel. 20 It is for the gospel that I am an ambassador who is kept in chains, so that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak. Ephesians

6:10-20

Discuss the Passage (10-15 minutes)

Key Idea: engaging the Christian life as a spiritual battle

Key Passage: Ephesians 6:10-20

Main Session: OBS 32 (Jesus Heals a Demon-Possessed Man and a Sick Woman)

Movement 1: Understand the Story

Read each question aloud. Give the group time to answer before sharing the answer.

Observation Questions

32-01

Where did Jesus and his disciples travel by boat?

Jesus and his disciples went in their boat to the region where the Gerasene people lived.

32-02

Whom did Jesus meet when he arrived where the Gerasene people lived?

He met a man there who was demon-possessed.

32-03

Why were people unable to restrain the demon-possessed man?

The demon made him so strong that he would break the chains they used to bind him.

32-04

Where did the man live?

The man lived among the tombs.

How did the man act?

He screamed all day and night, not wearing clothes and cutting himself with stones.

32-05

What did the man do when he saw Jesus?

The man ran up to Jesus and knelt down in front of him.

What did Jesus speak to the demon in the man?

Jesus spoke to the demon and commanded it to come out of the man.

32-06

What did the demon say to Jesus?

The demon cried out in a loud voice, asking Jesus what he wanted with him, called him Jesus, Son of the Most High God, and asked Jesus not to torture him.

What was the demon's name?

His name was Legion.

What did the name Legion mean?

A 'legion' was a group of several thousand soldiers in the Roman army. This name meant that there were many demons in the man.

32-07

Where did the demons beg Jesus to send them when they left the man?

They asked Jesus to send them into a herd of pigs instead of sending them out of the region.

How did Jesus respond to this request?

Jesus sent the demons into a herd of pigs.

32-08

What happened to the pigs when the demons entered them?

They ran down a steep bank into the lake and drowned.

How many pigs drowned when the demons sent them into the lake?

There were 2,000 pigs in the herd that drowned.

32-09

What did the people who took care of the pigs do?

The people who took care of the pigs ran into the town and told everyone what Jesus had done.

What did the people from the town do?

The people from the town came to see the man who used to have demons.

How did the man behave after the demons left him?

He sat calmly, wore clothes, and acted like a normal person.

32-10

How did the people react when they saw the man who was healed and the dead pigs?

They were afraid and asked Jesus to leave them.

How did Jesus respond to their request that he leave?

Jesus got into the boat to leave.

Who else went into the boat with Jesus?

The man who used to have the demons begged Jesus to go along with him.

32-11

What did Jesus tell the healed man to do instead of going with Jesus?

Jesus told him to go home and tell his friends and family what God had done for him and how God had mercy on him.

32-12

What did the man do after Jesus told him to go tell everyone what Jesus had done for him?

The man told everyone about what Jesus did for him.

How did people respond to the man's witness?

The people who heard his story were amazed.

32-13

Who gathered around Jesus after he arrived at the other side of the lake?

After Jesus returned to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around Jesus and pressed on Jesus.

What was wrong with one of the women in the crowd?

A woman in the crowd suffered from a bleeding problem for 12 years, spent all her money on doctors, and only got worse.

32-14

Why did the woman with the bleeding problem come to Jesus?

She thought she would be healed if she touched Jesus' clothes.

What happened as soon as the woman touched Jesus' clothes?

Her bleeding stopped.

32-15

How did Jesus know someone had touched him?

He realized that power had gone out from him.

How did the disciples respond when Jesus asked who touched him?

The disciples told Jesus that there are many people in the crowd. They asked Jesus why he asked who touched him.

32-16

How did the woman act before Jesus?

The woman fell on her knees before Jesus, shaking and very afraid. She told Jesus that she touched his clothes and told him how she was healed.

What did Jesus say to the woman when she fell down before him?

He told her, "Your faith has healed you. Go in peace."

Movement 2: Theological Questions

What Does This Story Teach Us?

1. How do people suffer in this fallen world? What do the afflictions of the Gerasene man and the bleeding woman teach us about how people suffer?
2. What does Jesus ability to heal the demon-possessed and the sick tell us about who he is? What do we learn about Jesus from his healing of the Gerasene man and the bleeding woman?
3. How should we understand the spiritual world? What does Jesus' healing of the Gerasene man teach us about the spiritual world?
4. What does it look like to respond to Jesus in genuine faith? How do the various responses in this story help us understand genuine faith in Jesus?

Movement 3: Live It Out

Personal Implications & Applications From The Story

Guide the group to discuss practical obedience from this story and name concrete next steps.

1. Which of the struggles that the Gerasene man and bleeding woman can you most relate to from your own experience?
2. How has Jesus delivered you from your struggles?
3. Which of the responses to Jesus in this story describes your faith?
4. Think about this week. Where does "Jesus Heals a Demon-Possessed Man and a Sick Woman" challenge you to obey God in a practical way?
5. How does this key idea shape one decision you need to make right now: The story of Jesus healing the demon-possessed man and a sick woman teaches us that Jesus has power over the spiritual world and sickness.

Movement 4: Retell the Story

Invite the group to retell the story several times until they can tell it clearly and faithfully.

1. Can someone retell "Jesus Heals a Demon-Possessed Man and a Sick Woman" from beginning to end in their own words?
2. Retell this story again, but focus on what God did at each key moment.
3. Retell the story in three parts: beginning, middle, and ending. What changed in each part?
4. If you were teaching this story to your family tonight, how would you tell it simply and clearly?

Church Ministry

Ministry Preparation: Take time to consider how you could minister this story to others. Record some ministry ideas below.

Ministry Implementation: Minister this story to a group of believers as you had planned. Use the information in this study to help develop a teaching/lesson or lead a discussion of this story with other believers. Record your ministry plan below.

Ministry Reflection: Think about what you learned from ministering this story to other believers. Reflect on your experience below.

Movement 5: Share It

Help each person plan how they will share this story with others before the next gathering.

1. Who is one specific person you will share "Jesus Heals a Demon-Possessed Man and a Sick Woman" with this week?
2. When and where will you share this story with them?
3. What is the one main truth from this story you want them to remember?

Report-back next meeting: Who did you share with, and what happened?

Mission Engagement

Witness Preparation: Take time to consider how you will witness this narrative to unbelievers. Record some ideas below.

Witness Implementation: Share this story with an unbeliever. Use the information in this study to help develop a teaching/lesson or lead a discussion of this story with unbelievers. Record your witness plan below.

Witness Reflection: Think about what you learned from ministering this story to unbelievers. Reflect on your experience below.