

# Adventures with GOD!

## THE DEMON-POSSESSED MAN HELPED BY JESUS (B.3.SPRING.10)

Biblical Reference	Luke 8:26-39
Key Verse	Luke 8:39
Key Concept	Even after facing difficulties, with God's help, I can be ready to help others in similar situations.
Educational Objectives	At the end of this lesson, children will be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Give thanks to God for always being at work in their lives</li> <li>2. Sing songs about God's power over evil</li> <li>3. Understand people take personal experiences and use it to help others</li> </ol>

### Life Application

In the Bible, we read that Jesus Christ came into the world to defeat sin and evil. In his death and resurrection we see the ultimate victory. There are other ways that Jesus fought against evil, and one of them was by healing people, like the demon-possessed man. Throughout this story, which is a story of a miracle performed by Jesus, children will reflect on God's power over evil. Even today, we live in a world where evil is present, but God reminds us that in Jesus we have the last word.

### Possible Activities and Class Plan

Activity	Materials	Time
My GROW Adventure	GROW Adventure materials	5 minutes
Opening Prayer	Candle	1 minute
Bible Reading	Bible	5 minutes
Introduction	See instructions	5 minutes
Bible Exploration	Bible, time machine	10 minutes
Key Verse		10 minutes
Response	See instructions	10 minutes
My GROW Adventure	Review	5 minutes
Closing Prayer	Candle	1 minute



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## INSTRUCTIONS

**My GROW Adventure with God Weekly Review:** As children enter, take time to have them reflect on their adventure with God booklets, and either discuss or use art materials to express their journey during the past week. You may wish to add any art work, written poems, prayers or songs to a GROW wall in the room. You can find my GROW Adventure with God materials at [CovChurch.org/children/adventures-with-god](http://CovChurch.org/children/adventures-with-god).

**Opening Prayer:** Gather children around a candle. Light the candle, and explain that we are entering into a special time with God. Encourage the children to hold their hands out in front of them, palms up, as a sign they are ready to receive what God has for them today.

**Prayer Example:** Lord God, thank you for making us, for loving us, for forgiving us, and guiding us. We know you are here with us right now. As we enter into your word, the Bible, help us draw close to you, to understand and to listen to what you have to say to us. Amen

(For safety sake, you may wish to extinguish the candle after the prayer.)

**Bible Reading:** Explain that we read the Bible first to spend time with God. Children can remain with hands out stretched palms up to receive the word as it's being read. Alternatively they can be invited to draw what they hear. Read Luke 8:26-39 twice and ask children to respond.

**Question Examples:** What did you notice in this passage? How does it make you feel? Was there anything you would ask God about that you didn't understand or was confusing? Is God saying anything to you though the passage?

**Introduction:** Before class, cut up enough strips of black paper (2 x 8 ½ inches) for each child to make a chain that is at least 5 loops long. Each child should make their own chain, and should write their name with a white crayon on one of the strips of paper. When the chains are finished, hang them up or set them aside to be used later in the lesson.

**Bible Exploration:** You may choose to use the time machine this week and the sample dialogue is found on pages 5-6. Invite a child to come up and start the time machine. After the time machine is started up, but before the visitor comes out, poke a stick with the questions (written on paper and hanging by string) out of the time machine. Ask the volunteer to pass the stick along and for each child to take a question (or if there are more children then questions, ask for a certain amount of volunteers). After each child has a question, then the visitor can appear.

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The visitor will be a little disheveled, maybe with strips of cloth tied around him and with chains around his wrists. The story is based on Luke 8:26-39.

After the dialogue, ask children what they are thinking and feeling. Help children to imagine being there with Jesus and the disciples. What would they have felt? What would they have been thinking? Imagine that they were the man in the story, who was finally freed from such terrible things – what would be their response? How did the man respond? What did the man do after he experienced this miracle? How did he use the terrible things that happened to him to help others?

**Key Verse:** Ask children if they remember what the primary message was that Jesus had for this man. Ask them to find Luke 8:39 in their Bibles and ask for a volunteer to read it. Write it up on the board and ask a few volunteers to say it by memory, without looking at the board. The rest of the group can help if they get stuck on a word. Show children a map, if possible, of the region of Gerasenes where the man returned to tell his testimony.

**Response:** Have children get the chains they set aside earlier. Explain that while we might not experience what the demon-possessed man experiences there are often times things in our lives that keep us from following God. Together, talk about the things that sometimes become chains for us (bad habits, bad words and attitudes, disobedience, lies, cheating) and how Jesus provides a way for these chains to be broken. Using a white crayon give them time to write some of these words on their chains (hate, jealousy, fear, etc). Then together, have them imagine that Jesus is standing there with them, just like he was with the demon-possessed man. Remind them of the words that Jesus taught us to say when he was being tempted by evil in the desert, “Get away from me, Satan.” Together say these words and invite the children to break the chains. God’s power is greater than evil. If possible, teach the children a song that talks about God’s victory and goodness.

## Today's GROW Adventure with God Review:

G=God's Word: What is the story? (Give children an opportunity to express their understanding of the story).

R=Relationships: Is there anything in today's Bible story that shows us how we should or shouldn't share God's love with others? (Remind children that sometimes God uses the stories



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of the Bible to show us how we shouldn't act toward God or others. Give children a chance to consider how we might show God's love instead).

**O=Outward Action:** Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should help or serve God or others? (Explore concrete ways the children could live this out in the coming week).

**W: Worship:** Is there anything in the Bible story that shows us how we should accept God's love for us and others? Ask: How do you feel about God? What would you like to say to God?

**Closing Prayer:** Gather children around the candle again. As you light the candle, explain that the flame is something that is present in the light and the darkness. In the same way, the candle reminds us that God is always with us. Is there anything anyone wishes to say to God? After children have responded, close the prayer time.

**Prayer Example:** Lord God, we thank you that you are always with us, and always love us. It's good to be with you. Thank you for what we have learned today. Thank you for being with us and for teaching us through the Bible. Help us to remember what you have taught us today and to live it out when we leave. Amen

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## BIBLE EXPLORATION

### Questions for the demon-possessed man

Question #1 – Who are you?

Man – I’m the famous demon-possessed man. For years I lived like that, in a cemetery and slept by the tombs. I became so strong that I could break the chains they placed on me. Everyone was scared of me.

Question #2 – You are speaking like this was in the past. Are you still demon-possessed?

Man – I’m still the same man, but the demons are gone. Something, or should I say someone, came along and changed my life. One day I was yelling, hitting myself against the rocks, running around like a crazy person, when I saw a group of people coming towards me. The leader was like no one I’d seen. He wasn’t different than the others, but there was something about him that provoked not fear, but peace. I couldn’t contain myself. I started running to him yelling, “Jesus, Jesus. What do you want from me?”

Question #3 – And what did he want with you?

Man – Well, he saw me and asked who I was.

Question #4 – What did you answer?

Man – I screamed, “I am Legion,” because I had many demons in me. It wasn’t really me who yelled, but all of the demons that had been running my life and trying to destroy me.

Question #5 – Was Jesus surprised or scared?

Man – No. He looked me right in the face and he was the first person who had control over what was going on inside of me. Jesus had power over the destructive forces; He simply said, “Come out of him.”

Question #6 – And did they come out?

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Man – Not at first, but they knew they couldn't keep living in my body and so they answered, begging desperately, "Send us to the pigs", as there was a heard of pigs near by. And so he did. They came out of my body and went into those poor pigs. The pigs didn't have a very happy ending. They started running and ended up rushing down into the lake where they drowned.

Question #7 – What did the owners of the pigs say?

Man – Oh you should have seen them. They were furious with Jesus. They asked him to leave their region. I on the other hand couldn't have been happier. I was free! I immediately felt the difference – a freedom I hadn't felt in a long time. I sat at Jesus' feet. The disciples couldn't believe their eyes. They were terrified.

Question #8 – And then what happened?

Man – Well obviously I wanted to stay with Jesus and the disciples. I wanted to learn more about whom this Jesus was that had power over the demons. Jesus had to come from God. But Jesus told me I had a mission. He wanted me to go back to my people, to the region of Gerasenes where I had come from and tell them what had happened. I had to give testimony to what God did for me through Jesus. And so that's what I did. It was amazing to see the people respond. They were amazed that Jesus could do this. What about you all? What do you think of my story? It's been a pleasure to share it with you!