

# JESUS AND THE MADMAN



**BIBLE STUDY GUIDE SERIES**



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**CHRIST TO THE WORLD MINISTRIES**



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**Christ to the World Ministries** is a non profit ministry dedicated to sharing the gospel of Christ with the world through radio dramas and printed and oral studies based on Scripture. The printed lessons can be studied by one person or by a group.

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*Dear Friend,*

*I am glad that you are interested in studying the Bible. It is God's Word to us and in it, we find the way of salvation and guidance for daily living. The main theme of the Bible is God's love for us and how he expressed that love by Jesus Christ dying on the cross for our sins. Jesus arose from the grave and today He will save every person who puts his or her faith and trust in Him.*

*This study guide will help you gain a better understanding of the Bible. Open your heart to what God has for you through the study. I have prayed that your study will be life changing.*

*May God bless you richly,*

*Larry Alston*  
*Christ to the World Ministries*



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## INTRODUCTION

Welcome to a study of one of the great miracles of Jesus that demonstrates His mighty power to save.

This Bible study will help you gain a better understanding of who Jesus is: the divine

Son of God with all authority and power. You will see a spectacular demonstration of his power over Satan as he casts a multitude of demons from a wretched person and restores him to wholeness.

You can write in this study guide. Don't keep it clean and unmarked! When the guide asks you to respond, don't simply think of your response. Take time to write it down. Doing so helps you internalize and reinforce your learning. Write from your heart. No one else will see what you write.

As writer, I will work along with you as you complete your study. I will share with you my own responses to most of the questions and activities. This does not mean that my responses are any more correct than yours; it simply means that you will have the benefit of a fellow traveler walking beside you as you move through the study.

Keep your Bible before you as you complete the study. When asked to read a passage of Scripture, take time to read it.

Ready? Then let's get started.

**Begin your study with prayer. Make the following prayer your very own.**

*Dear God, please open your Word to me as I study. Speak to my heart. Help me obey your will for my life. Help me do what you want me to do. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen*

## THE SCRIPTURE

Mark 5:1-20

*1 They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. 2 When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an evil spirit came from the tombs to meet him. 3 This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him any more, not even with a chain. 4 For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. 5 Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.*

*6 When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. 7 He shouted at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won't torture me!" 8 For Jesus had said to him, "Come out of this man, you evil spirit!"*

*9 Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?"*

*"My name is Legion," he replied, "for we are many." 10 And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area.*

*11 A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. 12 The demons begged Jesus, "Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them." 13 He gave them permission, and the evil spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.*

*14 Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened. 15 When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. 16 Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man---and told about the pigs as well. 17 Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.*

18 As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. 19 Jesus did not let him, but said, "Go home to your family and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you." 20 So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

Mark 5:1-20

Matthew tells about two demon-possessed men. Mark and Luke tell about only one of the men. Obviously, one of the men was more prominent and violent and fierce than the other so Mark and Luke concentrate on him. We will deal with this one also.

**Read Matthew 8:28-34 and Luke 8:26-39.**

Jesus had spent a very busy day teaching the people. The crowd became so large that he got into a boat and taught from it. People gathered on the shore. The day had been long and demanding. Darkness began to settle on the Sea of Galilee and the surrounding hills. Jesus was tired. He needed to get away from the multitude to rest.

## BACKGROUND AND SETTING

Jesus told his disciples to cross over to the other side of the lake. He lay down on a cushion in the back of the boat and went to sleep. The disciples, several of them veteran fishermen on this lake, raised the sails and guided the boat in a southeasterly direction. They were in no hurry. They were glad the busy day was over.

They watched the receding shoreline, punctuated by a few flickering lights of the town of Capernaum. A soft breeze felt good to their faces. They liked the gentle sound of water lapping against the boat.

Suddenly the breeze changed to a rushing wind and the waves became strong. A storm came upon them. They quickly lowered the sails and tried to steer the boat. The squall became furious and waves began breaking over the boat. The violent storm scared even the fishermen. They awoke Jesus and asked him to save them. He rose and spoke to the wind and waves and ordered them to be calm. Immediately the wind died down and the waves stopped.

The disciples spent the rest of the night sailing the eight to ten miles to their destination. They marveled that the Master they followed had power to still a raging storm. But they were about to witness a greater miracle as the Savior quieted another raging storm of a different type.

## THE DEMON POSSESSED MAN



The first streaks of dawn came as the boat made its way to a Gentile region on the eastern shore. The area was called the Decapolis because there were 10 cities in the region.

The disciples heard him before they saw him. Terrifying shrieks and wails pierced the early morning light. As Jesus got out of the boat a wild man came rushing down the hillside toward them, shouting at the top of his voice.

**In this picture, identify Jesus, the disciples and the madman. Note the tombs nearby and the pigs on the hillside. (No written response is necessary.)**

**In the space below, write a sentence or caption that describes the event.**

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**Read Mark 5:1-10 again. Write at least five things you find about the man in this passage. (For example: He had an evil spirit.)**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

**Luke records one other detail about the man. Read Luke 8:27. How was the man dressed?** \_\_\_\_\_

Matthew adds still another detail. Read Matthew 8:28. **Complete the following sentence.**

Not only did the man possess supernatural strength, he was so violent that

\_\_\_\_\_

Demonic spirits possessed the man. The unclean spirits controlled him. He had withdrawn from society and lived in the unclean and isolated tombs on the hillside. Naked, he had no regard for personal dignity. He possessed super strength and was violent against others. Everyone feared the man. He terrorized the town. He mutilated himself with sharp stones and cried out with loud shrieks day and night. He raved and raged so much that no one could pass that way.

People often make two errors in regard to demon-possession. First, they refuse to believe in the reality of demon-possession. Some people explain away the biblical material by saying that it simply describes extreme physical and emotional illnesses. They make another error when they harbor an excessive interest and fascination in demons and become engrossed with them. Avoid both errors.

The Bible clearly teaches the reality of demon-possession in Bible times. Demons are fallen angelic beings who rebelled and were cast out of heaven along with Satan, their evil master. When the human will gives consent, demon possession can take place.

Not only does the Bible teach the possibility that unclean spirits can possess a person, it also teaches that we should focus our lives on Jesus. We should not focus our attention on demons or any other thing.

**Read Hebrews 12:2. Complete this sentence:**

Our eyes should be fixed on \_\_\_\_\_.

An expanded paraphrase of the first part of Hebrews 12:2 could say: “Let us look away from everything else that might distract us and focus only on Jesus.”

**Read Matthew 4:23-24. List the various persons brought to Jesus for healing.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Now read Mark 1:32-34. Describe in your own words what Jesus did with the demon-possessed persons brought to him.** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Check the answer that completes this sentence:**

The accounts in Matthew 4:23-24 and Mark 1:32-34 show that Jesus . . .

\_\_\_\_\_ possessed limited ability to help people who suffered.

\_\_\_\_\_ possessed unlimited power to heal the sick and oppressed.

Jesus healed all kinds of diseases and afflictions among the people. He cleansed demon-possessed persons. Jesus possessed unlimited power to heal the sick and oppressed. He still has that same power today.



Find in Mark 5:6-7 three things the poor wretched man possessed by evil spirits did when he saw Jesus at a distance.

Write them here.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

The Gospel writers do not record the reaction of the disciples when they saw the deranged man. I think they were terrified when they saw this naked wild man running toward them, screaming at the top of his voice. The man fell on his knees in front of Jesus.



## THE CONFRONTATION

Read Mark 5:7. Check the correct answer.

The madman called Jesus ...

- Lord and God
- Son of Man
- Healer of all diseases
- Jesus, Son of the Most High God
- Maker of heaven and earth

In the space below, write a sentence or caption that describes the event. What in this picture suggests that demons possessed the madman?

Read Mark 1:24. Write what the demon-possessed man in the synagogue called Jesus. \_\_\_\_\_

Read James 2:19. Then answer this question:

Who believes there is one God? \_\_\_\_\_

It is odd that many people today do not believe Jesus is the Son of God when even the demons know him and tremble. The madman in Mark 5 called Jesus Son of the most high God. The demon-possessed man in the synogogue called him Jesus of Nazareth and the Holy One of God.

Read Mark 5:8. Then answer this question.

What did Jesus say to the man?

\_\_\_\_\_

This wild man from the tombs did not frighten Jesus. Moved with compassion, he began the healing process. He spoke to the evil spirits and commanded them to come out of the man. Jesus then asked the man, "What is your name?"

Read Mark 5:9 and circle the demon-possessed man's response.

The Roman army was made up with legions. A legion often had as many as 6,000 soldiers. Perhaps the demon-possessed man had once seen a legion of soldiers go marching by. The name "Legion" indicated that many demons controlled the man.

Demons are no match for Jesus. He has power to break their destructive grip upon a person's life and free the person. He has all power and authority. Jesus never faced a problem too hard for him.

Sometimes doctors cannot help a patient. Not Jesus. He can forgive and cleanse the deepest sin. He specializes in difficult cases. No one is too sinful or too unworthy. He saves all who put their faith and trust in him.

A large herd of pigs was feeding nearby. The Jews considered pigs unclean. (See Lev. 11:7.) The pigs probably belonged to a group of wealthy Gentiles who lived on the east side of the Sea of Galilee. The demons begged Jesus to allow them to enter into the pigs. Jesus gave permission.

**Read Mark 5:13. Write what the pigs did when the demons entered into them.** \_\_\_\_\_



**Read Mark 5:9-14.**

**Which verse does the picture illustrate?**

**Write the verse number** \_\_\_\_\_.

Sharp cliffs border the Sea of Galilee in the area where this event took place. The pigs went crazy and stampeded. They rushed over a cliff into the sea and drowned.

**Read Mark 5:14. Then answer this question: What did the workers tending the pigs do when they saw what happened?**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## THE REACTION OF THE PEOPLE

The pig keepers told everyone they met what they had seen. The people from the town came out to the lake to see for themselves what happened. They saw a lot of dead pigs in the water. They saw Jesus and his disciples. They also saw someone they knew well--the madman. But he was no longer a madman.



**In the space below, write a sentence or caption that describes the picture.**

\_\_\_\_\_

Earlier you described the madman as he ran out to meet Jesus. Now he is different.

**Read Mark 5:15. Which of the following statements describe the madman as the people saw him? (Place a check beside each correct statement.)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> The man sat beside Jesus.        | <input type="checkbox"/> The man wore clothes.        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The man ran back into the tombs. | <input type="checkbox"/> The man fought the disciples |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The man possessed his right mind |   |

The man had changed. No longer naked, he wore clothes, perhaps a cloak the disciples gave him. No longer crazy but in his right mind, he sat at Jesus' feet, no doubt listening to his tender words of love and encouragement.

The people grew afraid. No doubt they were startled to see that Jesus had healed the man who kept them awake at nights with his wild shrieks. When they realized that the 2000 pigs would never go to market, they began to plead with Jesus.

**Read Mark 5:17. What request did the people make of Jesus? Write your answer here.** \_\_\_\_\_

Sadly, they asked Jesus to leave. How tragic when a person asks Jesus to go away. Jesus provides the only way a person can be saved and have eternal life.

**Read John 14:6. Then complete this statement:**

Jesus said, "I am the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_. No one comes to the Father except \_\_\_\_\_."

**According to John 14:6, how can a person come to the Father? Write your answer here:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Read Acts 9:1-2 and Acts 19:8-9, 23. Write the missing words in the following sentence.**

Before the word "Christian" designated believers in Christ, people called them followers of the \_\_\_\_\_ and Christianity was referred to as the \_\_\_\_\_

Jesus is the only way to God. There are not many ways. There is one way.

The people of Gadara valued their pigs more highly than they valued the presence of Jesus. The fact that the madman who had terrorized their community for years had changed did not impress them as much as the loss of their profit.

They were more concerned about dead pigs floating in the water than they were a man who was now a whole person. They valued pigs more than they valued a redeemed and restored life.

People today reenact this story about the pigs. Only the pigs have changed.

**List some things people choose rather than God today. Number 1 shows an example.**

- |                         |          |
|-------------------------|----------|
| 1. _____ Pleasure _____ | 4. _____ |
| 2. _____                | 5. _____ |
| 3. _____                | 6. _____ |

Some people choose pleasure rather than Christ. Others choose some sin, a habit, their work, a hobby or pastime, or countless other things rather than the Savior. But Christ must come first.

Only Christ provides hope and assurance of eternal life. If a person turns him away, hope disappears.

**Read Mark 5:18. Check the correct answer.**

When the people of Gadara pleaded with Jesus to leave their area . . .

- \_\_\_ he refused to do so.
- \_\_\_ he preached to them.
- \_\_\_ he got in a boat and left.
- \_\_\_ he pronounced judgment upon them.



I think the first part of Mark 5:18 tells the saddest part of the entire story. We can think of many sad things in the story. The madman, who once had been a whole person, began to yield his mind and body to evil spirits. He gradually grew more tormented. One day he walked away from his home and family, possibly a wife and children. He went to roam among the tombs. No one could walk by that area. His awful screams awoke frightened people at night. He tore his clothes from his body and wandered about naked. He cut his body with stones. His little daughter, with her face peering out the window one day, suddenly screamed, “Here comes Daddy!” His wife and children locked the door and ran and hid when they heard him coming. But of all the sad things we can think of in this story, the saddest of all is when Jesus turned away and got in the boat. But he does that when people ask him to leave. He doesn’t stay where he is not welcome. Each person has the freedom to accept him or reject him.

## THE REQUEST OF THE MAN

**Read Mark 5:18-19. Then answer these questions:**

**What request did the healed man make of Jesus?**

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**How did Jesus respond to this request?**

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The man wanted to go with Jesus. But the Savior told the man to go home and witness to his family and neighbors. This is often the most difficult place to speak about Jesus.

We often find it easier to talk with complete strangers about God than to talk with husband, or wife, or children, or neighbors.



**In the space below, write a sentence or caption that describes the event in the drawing.**

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The man wanted to go with Jesus. But the Savior told the man to go home and witness to his family and neighbors. This is often the most difficult place to speak about Jesus. We often find it easier to talk with complete strangers about God than to talk with husband, or wife, or children, or neighbors.

**Read Mark 5:20. Complete the following sentences by checking the correct answer.**

1. After Jesus told the man to go home, the man . . .  
 refused to obey and remained in the tombs.  
 went and reported to the Pharisees.  
 went and told people what Jesus had done for him.  
 went with the disciples.

2. The people who heard the man expressed . . .  
 amazement.  
 ridicule.  
 fear.  
 rejection.

As the boat with Jesus and the disciples faded on the horizon, the man, obedient and faithful, turned and faced home. He began telling everyone he met what Jesus had done for him. The people were truly amazed.

Imagine the healed man walking down the street approaching his house. His family had lived in constant fear, perhaps for years, of their husband and father who had become a hideous monster. Again, a little daughter peers from the window and cries out in fear, "Daddy's coming!"

As the children rush to their hiding places, the mother looks out the window. She sees her husband, but she immediately notices something different. He wears clothes. He does not scream. His hair is no longer matted and disheveled. His face shows a different look.

He knocks softly on the door and calls her name. Something compels her to open the door. She does so very slowly and carefully. Her husband looks into her eyes and begins to speak.

**Imagine this scene. Write some things you think the man might have said to his wife and children that day.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

**Study again the five drawings in this lesson.**

## APPLICATION

**Write a summary of this Bible story in your own words.**

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Our Bible study emphasizes the following truths. **Read the statements and reflect on them. Circle one statement that means the most to you.**

1. Jesus is the divine Son of God with all authority and power.
2. Demons are no match for Jesus.
3. Jesus loves us and has compassion toward us.
4. No one is too hard or too unworthy to save.
5. Jesus alone can save.

**Commit the following Bible verse to memory.**

*"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10).*

**Read the verse aloud over and over until you can say it from memory. Write it on a little card or slip of paper and carry it with you. Repeat the verse every day.**

**Read John 10:10 again. Then answer these questions:**

Who is the thief? \_\_\_\_\_

What does the thief do? \_\_\_\_\_

Who has come that people may have life? \_\_\_\_\_

Satan wants to possess and destroy men and women, the very best of God's creation. Like a thief, he steals and kills. But Jesus has come to give abundant and eternal life.

**Summarize in a sentence or two the main thing God has taught you in your study.**

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**GUIDE FOR  
GROUP STUDY**

You can lead your family or a group of neighbors or perhaps a church group in this study on the casting out of the demons. Doing so will strengthen your own life.

God will use you to bless others. The following suggestions will help you lead a small group study.

Each member of the group has contributions to make. Each person should take active part in the discussion. No one should dominate the time together.

**Begin the study with prayer. Read aloud the story of the demon-possessed man in Mark 5:1-20.**

**Using the five drawings as visual aids, tell the story of what happened. Take your time and show the drawings to the group as you tell the story. Answer any questions group members may ask.**

**Six unfinished sentences appear below. Read the first sentence and complete it in your own words however you wish. Then give everyone in the group an opportunity to complete the sentence in his or her own words. Follow the same procedure with the other five unfinished sentences.**

1. If I had been with Jesus when the demon-possessed man came running an-screaming, I would have . . .
2. If I had been one of the persons from the town who came out to see Jesus, I would have . . .
3. The most dramatic case I've ever seen of Christ saving someone is . . .
4. One way I have experienced Christ's power in my own life is . . .
5. It is difficult for me to talk about Christ with . . .
6. The best way one can safeguard against the likelihood of an unclean spirit entering one's life is to . . .

**Read Hebrews 12:2 and emphasize that we should keep our lives focused on Jesus--- not on demons or any other thing.**

**Ask the group members to respond to the follow questions. There is no one correct answer to most of them. Lead members to share thoughts and feelings.**

1. Why do you think the people from the town wanted Jesus to leave?
2. Why did the healed man want to go with Jesus?
3. What did Jesus tell the man to do?
4. How did the man obey?
5. Why do we sometimes find it difficult to talk about Christ with family members?

**Read again the five truths emphasized in this lesson. (See page 15.) Ask members to express each truth using different words.**

**Lead the group in memorizing John 10:10.**

**Read to the group the following section: “Responding to God.” Pray for yourself the prayer shown at the end of “Responding to God.” Lead each person to pray it for himself or herself.**

Now that you have studied God’s Word, He wants you to respond.

## **RESPONDING TO GOD**

**The Bible teaches that you are a sinner.** *“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”* (Rom. 3:23) *“There is no one righteous, not even one”* (Rom. 3:10).

**But God loves you and sent his Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for your sin.** *“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life”* (John 3:16). *“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us”* (Rom. 5:8).

**You receive Christ as your Savior by turning from your sin and placing your faith and trust in him.** *“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out”* (Acts 3:19) *“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”* (Rom. 10:13).

**Pray this prayer to God:** *“Dear God, I know that I’m a sinner. I believe Jesus died for my sins and rose from the dead and is alive today. I now turn from my sins. I am placing my faith and trust in Jesus alone to be my Savior and to forgive me. I receive Jesus into my life as my Savior and Lord. From this day forward, I will follow Jesus. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for loving me and for coming into my life. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.”*

## ***Welcome into God’s family!***

Share with others that you have received Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord.

Ask for baptism by immersion in a local church as a public expression of your faith. If there is no church near you, start a church by gathering a group of persons in your home and worship together on a regular basis.

Read your Bible and pray each day. Tell others what Christ has done for you and what he can do for them.

Notes: