

# CALVARY CHAPEL COSTA MESA

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## COMMUNITY GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

### “Jesus, Men & Demons” Mark 5:1-20

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#### MAIN IDEA

Jesus’ ministry around the Sea of Galilee was filled with teachings and acts that made it impossible to dismiss Him as a charlatan. Both his message and His miracles proved indisputable when challenged. While His preaching offered forgiveness of sins, His healings mended the physical effects of it. Jesus’ words and works demonstrated His authority over the forces of nature, human crisis, and even cosmic powers. Some may have still been perplexed by who Jesus was and what His purpose entailed, but this story in Mark 5 continued His miraculous campaign. The disciples on the Sea had cried out, “Who can this be?” But the demons in the Gadarenes ran to worship Him, and begged for mercy from, “Jesus, Son of the Most High God.” Everyone is somewhere on the spectrum of belief regarding Jesus. Some will reject His message, as the people of the Decapolis did, and some will release all of their faith to Christ, as the formerly possessed man did.

#### SCRIPTURAL INSIGHT

The demonic have an obsession with trying to ruin the relationship that God has with humanity. While Jesus had already ministered to those possessed with demons, the demon-possessed man of the Gadarenes was filled with thousands. His torment was hard to comprehend as the people in the area were haunted with the sorrow of his wailings and self-mutilation. One commentator stated that this was, “One of the most lamentable stories of human wretchedness in the Bible.” While the people of the town could not constrain the army of evil in this man, Jesus’ miracle is so complete it ends with the commissioning of this man as the first missionary to the Gentiles.

#### READ & DISCUSS

Read out loud together Mark 5:1-20 and observe how evil and men interact with each other, and how they both end up yielding to Christ.

#### KEY VERSES

**Mark 5:6-7** When he saw Jesus from afar, he ran and worshiped Him. And he cried out with a loud voice and said, “What have I to do with You, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I implore You by God that You do not torment me.”

#### DISCUSSIONS ABOUT GOD & THEOLOGY...

- *What do we learn from this passage regarding demons view of Jesus?*
- *Why is their address to Him significant? What do we learn about Jesus from the way he dealt with the demons?*
- *What does it teach us about His divinity?*
- *When observing the way the townspeople and the way Jesus handled spiritual warfare, what can Christians learn and apply from the two approaches?*

#### DISCUSSIONS ABOUT SPIRITUAL GROWTH...

The culture traffics and merchandises in evil, then laments at the suffering it inflicts. Paul says that Satan should not be able to take advantage of believers since we are keen to his methods. (2 Cor. 2:11) Read Ephesians 6:10-18.

- *What practices of a Christian’s spiritual life are prerequisite for being prepared for spiritual warfare? If comfortable, share how God brought you through a spiritual attack.*

## DISCUSSIONS ABOUT BUILDING COMMUNITY...

- *Why is community important regarding spiritual warfare?*
- *How does God use our relationships to restore us after the dust of spiritual warfare settles?*
- *How do friendships strengthen our relationship with God?*

## DISCUSSIONS ABOUT LIFE & CULTURE...

Jesus had compassion on the demon possessed man, even though he might have brought his suffering on himself.

- *Have you ever felt vindicated in someone else's suffering, thinking "They deserve what they got?"*
- *How does Jesus' compassion toward you inform and transform judgmental thinking?*
- *What is a compassionate thought that could replace "They deserve it?"*

## PRAYER & TESTIMONY

The Bible teaches us that God is actively involved in the world, that there is nothing He cannot do, that He is personal and loves us more than we can ever know. Spend time talking to God about these truths and bringing to Him any fears you have regarding Satan, demons and evil.

## SPIRITUAL APPLICATION & PRACTICE

Read again Ephesians 6:10-18, and list out the things Paul exhorts the believers to do in order to be prepared for spiritual warfare. In your own words, describe what it would look like for you to do each one.

## RESOURCES

*What exactly can demons do to the Saints?* There is a wide spectrum of beliefs held on what Scripture teaches regarding this topic. Below are two good, scriptural based perspectives. Both argue that it is important for Christians to live spiritually healthy lives so as to not give a foothold to the enemy.

*Spiritual Warfare: Christians, Demonization and Deliverance.* Karl Payne. Washington D.C.: WND Books, 2011.

<https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1936488337>

*Overrun by Demons: The Church's New Preoccupation With the Demonic.* Thomas Ice. Eugene: Harvest House, 1990.

<https://www.amazon.com/Overrun-Demons-Churchs-Preoccupation-Demonic/dp/1565071220>



**Community Group Discussion Guide**

Based on Brian Brodersen's sermon on November 25, 2018

<https://cccm.com/teaching/jesus-christ-son-of-god-savior/video/jesus-men-and-demons/>