

January 8, 2017 – Leader Coaching

[This page is to help you sharpen your skills as a DiscipleGroup Leader. Each week we will include concepts, challenges, and resources designed to assist you as you lead and shepherd your group and grow as a disciple yourself. Also, we have added comments (enclosed in brackets []) on the Leader Guide for you.]

Abiding

[grow as a disciple yourself]

- What are your personal fears?
- As you learn this story and meditate on it, think about how the Father has freed you from evil and turned your life around.
- Give thanks to God for all that he has done for you. Also, try to live this week in full confidence of the Father who will protect and care for you.
- I Peter 5:7 Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. Commit this verse to memory this week.

Leading

[learn to facilitate your group more effectively]

- This is a key story in the Gospels. It shows God's power over evil and man's inability to deal with it on his own.
- Encourage all your group to learn this story well as it is very helpful in evangelism, particularly with people living in fear.

Shepherding

[know the sheep, feed the sheep, lead the sheep, protect the sheep]

- I Peter 5:7-11 is a wonderful passage that you can use to "protect your sheep." Why not send them all a text or email this week and encourage them to read that passage?

Resources:

- You can listen to an MP3 of this week's story at -- <http://firstmoore.com/the-whole-story-resources>
- Have you got the free app, uDisciple? It contains all the stories that we are currently using in our DiscipleGroups as well as the mp3 files. Download the app so that you can access the stories at any time. (It is available in the Google Play Store and the iOS Appstore.)

January 8, 2017 – Possessed Man

Open in Prayer

Welcome/Introductions

[if there are new people in your group, give brief introductions of people they don't know]

Remind group of DiscipleGroup Guidelines

Ask a “hook question” to get the group talking

- Share about a time you saw a stranger who scared you or seemed very odd.

Share background for the story

If the question comes up about why there are pigs there, some scholars believe this is a gentile territory. Some scholars even think that the exorcism performed by Jesus is a symbol of Jesus' cleansing a gentile area. This would help his disciples understand that Jesus has power in all areas and help them begin to understand that Jesus loves even the gentiles. If someone wants to discuss the “waste” of the pigs, don't spend too much time on it. If they press the issue you could go to John 1 and point out that Jesus created the pigs and this demonstrates the value of any human over animals.

Tell the story – This week's story is **Mark 5:1-20** (Use the attached condensed story as your guide.)

[Tell the story with your Bible open on your lap to the passage.]

Rebuild the story

[Group members tell the story together, one piece at a time, based on what they remember.]

Read the story out loud - Read **Mark 5:1-20** from the Bible

[The Scripture passage will, obviously, have many more details. Were there any important details left out of the telling or retelling that you discover in the Scripture?]

Discuss these questions:

1. Based on story about Jesus' Baptism, and what you learned about Jesus in this story, what do you now know about who Jesus is?
2. If you were one of Jesus' disciples watching this event, what do you think you would have thought about the whole thing?
3. Is there something in your life that you need to be freed from? What is the first step you need to take?
4. Who in your life needs to hear this story and how you tell it to them?

Ask someone to retell the story

Assign next week's passage -- John 10:14-39 (“Assurance”) (condensed story attached to next week's leader guide)

Close in Prayer

[Co-leader or apprentice say a closing prayer.]

Possessed Man

Transition (Based upon Mark 1:14-21)

The news about Jesus spread far and wide, many people came to see him for themselves. And, some people chose to follow Jesus. Jesus called out twelve men that he taught and with whom he traveled. They became his closest followers.

Mark 5:1-5

One day Jesus and His closest followers went by boat to the other side of the lake. Just as Jesus was climbing from the boat, a man possessed by an evil spirit ran out from a cemetery to meet him. Whenever this man was put into chains and shackles—as he often was—he broke the chains from his wrists and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to control him. All day long and all throughout the night, he would wander among the tombs and in the hills, screaming and hitting himself with stones.

Mark 5:6-8

When Jesus was still some distance away, the man saw him. He ran to meet Jesus and fell down before him. He gave a terrible scream, and he said, “Why are you bothering me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? For God’s sake, don’t torture me!” For Jesus had already said to the evil spirit, “Come out of the man, you evil spirit.”

Mark 5:9-13

Then Jesus asked, “What is your name?” And the evil spirit replied, “Many, because there are many of us here inside this man.” Then the evil spirits begged Jesus again and again not to send them to some far off place. There happened to be a large herd of pigs feeding on the hillside nearby. “Send us into those pigs,” the evil spirits begged. Jesus gave them permission. So the evil spirits came out of the man and entered the pigs, and the entire herd of two thousand pigs plunged down the hillside into the lake, where they drowned.

Mark 5:14-17

The men guarding the pigs fled to the nearby city and the surrounding countryside, telling everybody what they had seen. Everyone rushed out to see for themselves. A crowd soon gathered around Jesus, they were frightened when they saw the man who had been possessed by the evil spirits sitting fully clothed calmly at Jesus feet. He was perfectly sane. Those who had seen what happened to the man and to the pigs told everyone about it, and the crowd began pleading with Jesus to go away and leave them alone.

Mark 5:18-20

When Jesus got back into the boat, the man who had been possessed by the evil spirits begged Jesus to go with him. But Jesus said, “No, go home to your friends, and tell them what wonderful things God has done for you and how merciful he has been.” So the man started off to visit the Ten Towns of that region and began to tell everyone about the great things Jesus had done for him; and everyone was amazed at what they had heard.