

The BIBLE STORY

Bible Storytelling Tips

Jesus Has Power Over Evil

Mark 5:1-20

• Set apart dialogue:

Give an adult volunteer a copy of the Bible story script. When you come to dialogue, pause and allow the volunteer to speak the line in a unique voice.

• Listen and react:

Encourage kids to listen closely. Any time you say “evil spirit(s),” pause and allow the kids to briefly boo, hiss, or stamp their feet.

One day, Jesus and His disciples sailed across the sea from Galilee to the region of the Gerasenes (GEHR uh sees). **As soon as Jesus stepped out of the boat, a man came out to meet Him.** The man had been living in the caves where people were buried.

Something was wrong with the man; he was not himself. **He had an evil spirit in him that caused him to hurt and suffer.** People had tried to tie up the man with chains and shackles, but the man had broken the chains and smashed the shackles. No one was strong enough to tie him up.

This man saw Jesus coming, and he ran to meet Him. **He knelt down in front of Jesus, and Jesus commanded the evil spirit.** “Come out of this man!” Jesus said. The man cried out with a loud voice, and **the evil spirit spoke through him.** “What do You have to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg You before God, don’t punish me!”

Jesus asked, “What is your name?”

The evil spirit inside the man answered, “My name is Legion because there are many evil spirits with me.” **The spirits inside the man begged Jesus not to send them away.**

Nearby, a large herd of pigs was eating on a hillside. **The evil spirits said, “If you send us anywhere, send us into those pigs.”** So Jesus allowed the evil spirits to leave the man and go into the pigs. **All of the pigs—about 2,000 of them—ran down the hill and into the sea.** They drowned there.

The men who took care of the pigs saw what

happened, and they ran off and told everyone in the town and the nearby farms about **what Jesus had done**. The people came out to see Jesus, and they saw the man who had been living in the caves. The man did not have an evil spirit inside him anymore. He was dressed and behaved normally again. The people were afraid, and they asked Jesus to leave.

As Jesus was getting back into the boat, the man who had been living in the caves asked Jesus if he could go with Him. But Jesus did not allow the man to go with Him. Jesus said, “Go home to your friends and family members. Tell them what happened and how the Lord helped you.” The man obeyed Jesus. He told all the people about what Jesus had done for him. All the people were amazed.

Christ Connection: Only Jesus had the strength to control the man with the evil spirits. Jesus has power over evil, and He used His power to free the man. He has power over everything. Jesus came to earth to destroy the Devil by dying on the cross. One day, Jesus will end evil forever.

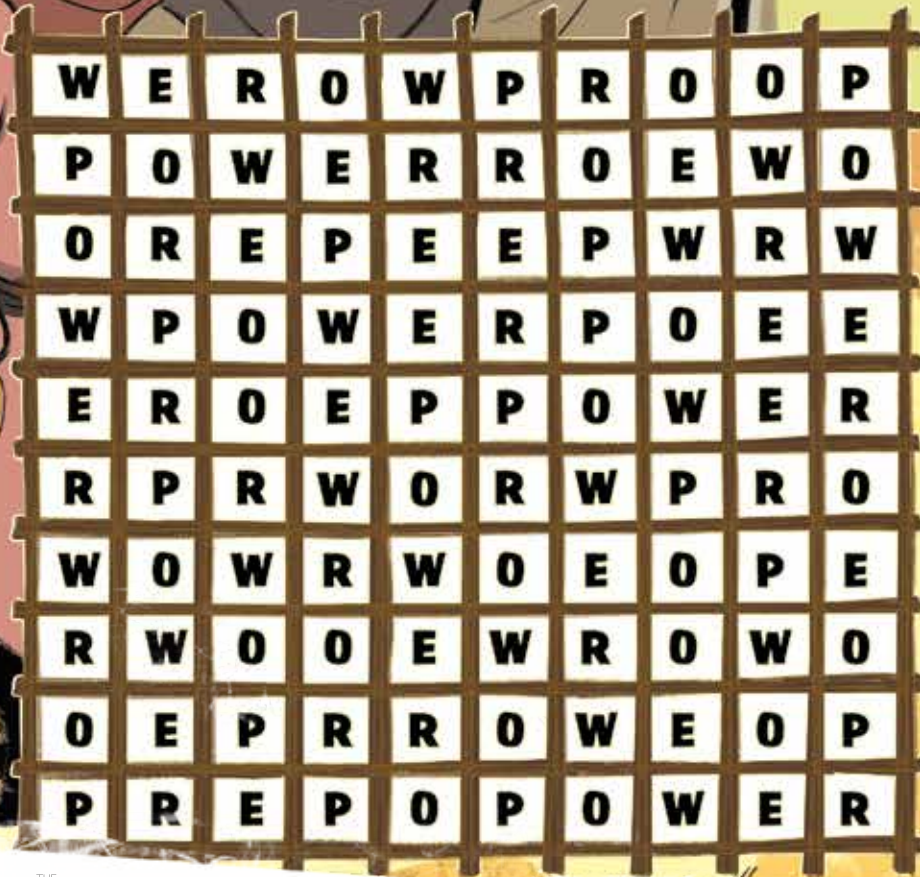


**WANT TO
DISCOVER
GOD'S WORD?
GET
BIBLE EXPRESS!**

Invite kids to check out this week's devotionals to discover that only Jesus has power to heal us from sickness, sin, and death. Jesus healed the man with evil spirits and gave him new life. Jesus heals and saves! (Jer. 17:14) Order in bulk, subscribe quarterly, or purchase individually. For more information, check out www.lifeway.com/devotionals.

Power Up

Jesus has power over evil. How many times can you find the word power in the puzzle below?



Tell the Story

Use the words from the word list to fill in the blanks and complete the story.

Jesus met a man living in the region of the _____.

The man had an _____ inside him. Jesus _____

the evil spirit to come out. The spirits inside the man

_____ Jesus not to send them away. Jesus allowed the

evil spirits to leave the man and go into the _____.

The pigs ran down the _____ and into the

_____. The people were _____, and they

asked Jesus to _____. Jesus told the man to tell

his _____ and family members how the Lord had

_____ him. Jesus has _____ over evil.

One day, Jesus will end evil _____.

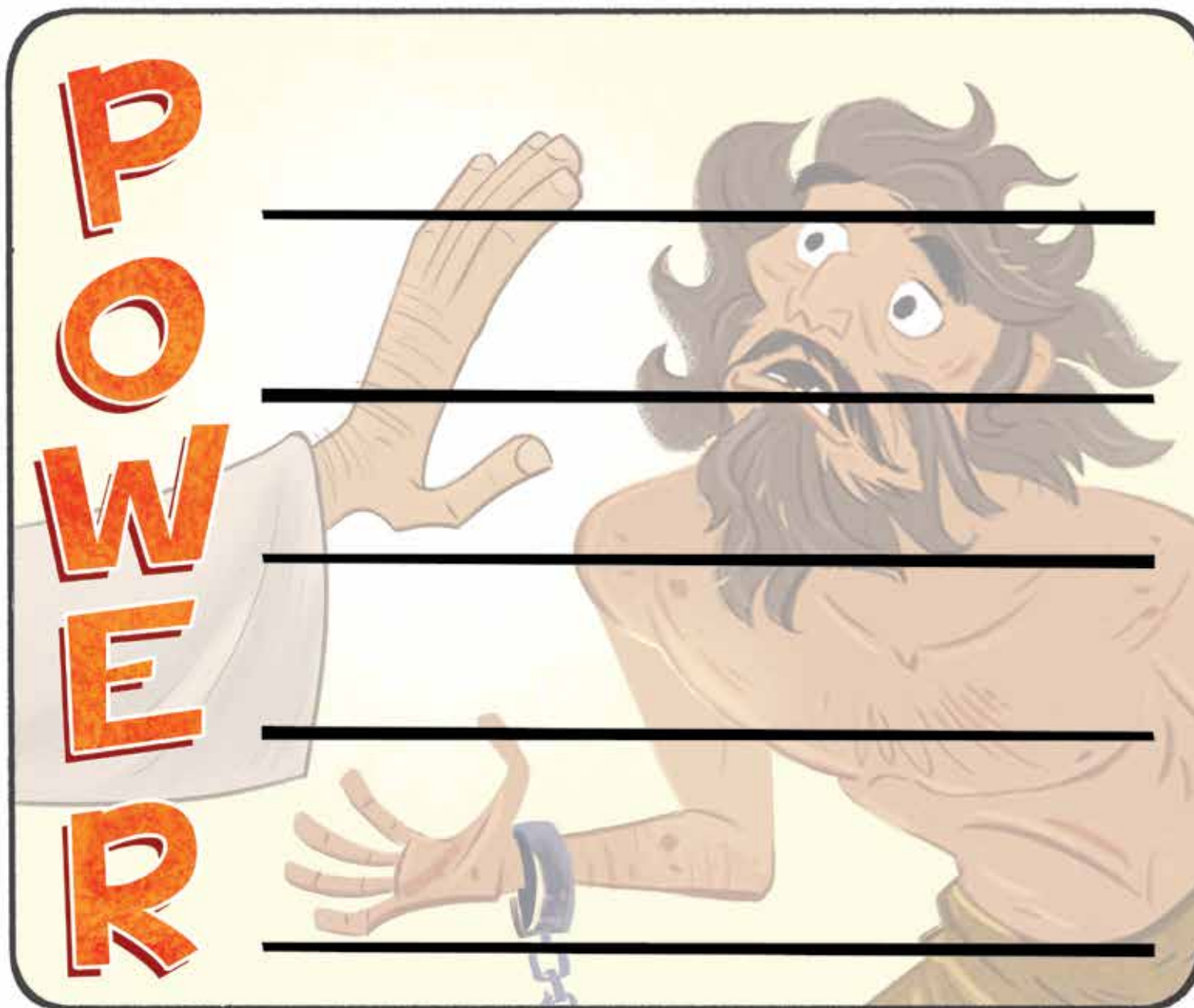
Word list: afraid, begged, commanded, evil spirit, friends, forever, Gerasenes, helped, hill, leave, pigs, power, sea



Power Play

DOWNLOAD THE
TGP FAMILY APP

INSTRUCTIONS: In the blanks below, write a word describing Jesus that starts with each of the letters in the word *power*.



KEY PASSAGE: Psalm 103:2-3

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- What did Jesus heal people from? Jesus healed people from sickness, sin, and death.

BIBLE STORY:

JESUS HAS POWER OVER EVIL

- Jesus and His disciples traveled to the region of the Gerasenes.
- A man with evil spirits approached them.
- The evil spirits begged Jesus not to send them away.
- Jesus healed a man with many evil spirits.

FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- What are some examples of evil we see today?
- Why do we not have to be afraid of evil?
- How did Jesus defeat evil?

FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Find instructions online for how to make a potato battery. Talk to your kids about more powerful sources of electricity, like a power outlet. Remind your family that Jesus is more powerful than evil, so we don't have to be afraid.

Younger Kids Activity Pages
Unit 24, Session 2

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus.
Tip: Provide *I'm a Christian Now* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.