**Jesus and the Gerasene Demoniac**

**A Bible Story From**

**Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20;**

**Luke 8:26-39**

**Bible Story Number: 2010300**

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**Jesus and the Gerasene Demoniac**

**Bible Story**

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**Background**

This story took place immediately after Jesus calmed the storm. The group of boats was on the way to the other side of the lake (the Sea of Galilee) when the storm started. After Jesus calmed the storm, they continued their journey to the other side. The events in this story happened when they arrived.

**Story from the Bible**

**Matthew 8:28-34; Mark 5:1-20; Luke 8:26-39**

This is what the Bible says.

Jesus and his disciples arrived on the other side of the lake (the Sea of Galilee). The area is known as the region of the Gerasenes. A demon-possessed man who lived in a cemetery met them as soon as they got out of the boat. The demon-possessed man had lived among the tombs for some time. Some had tried to restrain him, but they were unable to, even with chains and shackles. He had broken the chains and smashed the shackles and freed himself regardless of what they had tried. The man wandered around the tombs at night; and many heard his screams. He cut himself with stones. The people were afraid of him.

When the man saw Jesus, he ran to him and knelt down before him. Jesus spoke to the demon and commanded him to come out of the man.

The demon caused the man to scream out, loudly asking Jesus, “What do you want from me? You are Jesus, the Son of the Most High God.” He begged Jesus not to torment him.

Jesus asked the demon what his name was. The demon answered, “My name is Legion, because we are many.” And he kept begging Jesus not to send them out of the region.

There was a large herd of pigs feeding on the hillside nearby. The demons begged Jesus saying, “Send us to the pigs, so we may enter them.” Jesus gave them permission and the demons left the man and entered the pigs. The herd of about 2,000 pigs ran down the hill into the water and drowned. The men who had been tending the pigs ran away and told everyone in town and everyone along the way what had happened.

People from the town went out to see for themselves. When they got to where Jesus was, they found the man who had been demon possessed, dressed and in his right mind. They were afraid. Those who had seen everything firsthand told them what had happened.

The people begged Jesus to leave and go somewhere else. Jesus got into the boat to leave. The man who had been demon possessed begged Jesus to let him go with him. He wanted to be with Jesus.

Jesus would not let the man go with him. Instead, he told him to go back home to his own people and tell them how much God had done for him and how God had shown great mercy to him.

The man did what Jesus told him to do. He went out and began to tell everyone in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. The people were amazed by what this man told them.

That concludes this story from the Bible.

**Retelling the Story**

Let’s review this story by retelling it as a group. We want to retell it as faithfully as we can to the story from the Bible. We do not want to add to it or leave out anything important. Who will get us started?

**Questions**

* How would you describe the demon-possessed man before his encounter with Jesus?
* How do we know that the demons recognized Jesus?
* Why do you think that the demons wanted to be allowed to enter the pigs?
* How did the men who were tending the pigs respond when all the pigs ran into the water and drowned?
* What did the people from town see when they came out to investigate?
* Why do you think Jesus would not allow this man to stay with him?
* What did Jesus tell the man who had been demon possessed to do?
* What happened when the man told about what Jesus had done for him?
* What does this teach us about God?
* What should we do in response to this teaching?

**Prayer**

Prayer is more than a way to end the session. It is time to talk to God. Public prayer is a model for others. Boldly ask God to guide participants to use the Bible story with others. Ask God to give you and the participant’s insight and understanding as you think about this biblical event.