

## Encountering Jesus through the Gospel of Mark

### Week 2: Pigs, People, and the Power of God

Hi Small Group Leaders,

Hope you're finding some good rhythms in life with God in the first few weeks of this new year. I've loved seeing more of the power of God displayed in Jesus in our past couple Sundays in Mark. First he speaks to Creation itself (and it listens!), now he speaks to a legion of demons (and they listen!). Jesus' power is over all that is made and He is with you today and as you gather with your Small Group this week. Please pray that you will see his power on display in the lives of those in your Small Group over the course of this year.

#### I. Catch Up

- Play a game, have fun! (10-15 mins)
  - One of my favourites is speed charades. One of you needs to host this game. Get your SG into two teams, and then have them elect their first representative and send them up to you. You whisper their first clue to them and they return to their groups to act them out (without any words). The teams need to guess quietly though, because you don't want to give away your answer to the other group. Once someone guesses, they come to the host with their answer and receive the next clue. First team to make it through all 10 wins!
    - 1. Football Playoffs; 2. Donald Trump; 3. Herd of Pigs; 4. LeBron James; 5. Justin Trudeau; 6. White Rock; 7. Scott Dickie; 8. Ugandan Flag; 9.

#### II. Dig In

- Seek Understanding
  - Read Mark 5:1-20
    - This is a shocking story in many ways. What stands out to you in your first reading? What questions arise for you?
  - Why did Jesus go to this region?
  - Scott told us that a 'legion' is a Roman military term designating 2000-6000 soldiers. We might expect a power encounter here (a battle), but there is not. Why?
  - What are the different responses to Jesus interaction with this man? Discuss the differences between them. (i.e. the townspeople, the formerly possessed man).
  - Why does Jesus not allow the freed man to come with him?
- Apply
  - Scott asked a number of important questions at the end of his sermon that we will center our discussion around tonight:
    - Have I written someone off?
      - Have I determined that someone is too far gone?
      - If so, who? How can we restore hope for them in ourselves?

### Marked

- Am I willing to go to the less desirable places to bring the power, hope, and healing of Jesus to others?
      - What places do I resist going to?
      - Where may Jesus be calling me that I don't want to go? (a place, a relationship, an action)
    - How am I being stretched in following Jesus right now?
      - Where is Jesus calling me to follow in faith (and it's difficult!)?
      - Are there people that I could share what Jesus had done in my life with?
    - Where do I need to apply the power of Jesus in my own life right now? (i.e. thought patterns, relationships, character, struggles, etc.)
- Pray
  - Bring those people you have written off to Jesus. Ask him to do the impossible again in their lives.
  - Pray for courage for one another to go to the undesirable places that were mentioned and be stretched in the ways discussed.
  - Pray for more of God's power to be worked out in our lives, minds, hearts, relationships, and communities. Pray as specifically as people have shared.
- Plans
  - Will your group join us for '**Kingdom Come**' tonight? It's from 7-8:30 (coffee at 6:30). What a great way to start the year in worship and prayer together!
  - We have a prayer training event this Sunday in the FireSide Rm. at 1pm (after you grab some Peace Portal Lunch!). Would so love to have you there with someone from your Small Group! Make an invite!
  - Continue to discuss how your group will **serve** together this year? Get some ideas from people in your group and pray that God will make clear if there are needs in your neighbourhood that he would invite you into. Then keep your eyes and ears open in the weeks ahead!