



WINTER CHURCHWIDE STUDY

JESUS AND THE EVANGELIST | WEEK 3

Brian Coles

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WORSHIP

Begin your group with a time of worship. If someone in your group can lead worship, invite them to lead two or three songs. Alternatively, consider using one or more of these songs from our Sunday morning worship time:

- **Breathe Miracles** (*Red Rocks Worship.*)
- **Fresh Wind** (*Hillsong Worship*)
- **Worthy** (*Elevation Music*)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Mark 4:35-41
- Mark 5:1-20

OPENING PRAYER

Begin your time together by inviting God's presence and asking the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and application of His Word.

Ice Breaker (5-10 min)

Share a time when someone invited you into a difficult or uncomfortable situation that ended up being meaningful. How did that experience change you?

SERMON RECAP (5 minutes)

This week, Pastor Brian explored Mark 5, where Jesus crosses the Sea of Galilee to enter Gentile territory and encounters a demon-possessed man. This passage follows immediately after Jesus calming the storm, demonstrating His authority over both nature and spiritual darkness.

Key Context:

- Jesus intentionally travels six miles across the sea into pagan Decapolis territory
- The man was possessed by "Legion" (representing thousands of demons)
- Jesus performs a public, verifiable miracle witnessed by many
- The freed man becomes the first evangelist to the Gentiles

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (35-40 min)

Opening the Word

1. Read Mark 5:1-20 together. What stands out to you most in this passage? What details surprise or challenge you?
2. Why do you think Jesus intentionally traveled into Gentile territory, a place where Jews typically wouldn't go? What does this tell us about His mission?

Going Deeper

3. The demon-possessed man lived in isolation, torment, and bondage. How does this picture represent life without Jesus? In what ways can you relate to feeling bound or out of control?
4. Pastor Brian said, "Don't get stuck in recovery." What do you think he meant? How can Christians sometimes stay in a comfort zone rather than following Jesus into difficult places?
5. The townspeople "began to beg Jesus to leave their region" after witnessing this miracle. Why would they respond this way? What does this reveal about human nature and priorities?
6. When have you witnessed God's power clearly displayed, yet seen people reject or dismiss it? How did that affect you?

Personal Reflection

7. The freed man wanted to follow Jesus in the boat, but Jesus told him, "Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you."
 - a. Why do you think Jesus sent him back instead of letting him come along?
 - b. Where is your "Decapolis"—the place where your influence and story can have the most impact?
8. Pastor Brian defined evangelism as "simply telling people how much the Lord has done for you." Does this definition change how you think about sharing your faith? How so?
9. What difficult or chaotic situation might Jesus be calling you to enter right now? What's holding you back?

Personal Reflection

Take 3-5 minutes of silence for individual reflection:

- Is there an area of your life where you haven't fully submitted to Jesus' Lordship?
- Are you living in the authority Jesus has given you, or are you living a powerless Christian life?
- Is there unconfessed sin you need to bring before Jesus for forgiveness?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION (10 Mins)

This Week's Challenge:

Choose one of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Share Your Story

- Write out your testimony in 3-5 minutes (what your life was like before Jesus, how you met Him, and how He's changed you). Share it with one person this week—a friend, coworker, family member, or neighbor.

Option 2: Enter the Chaos

- Identify one "difficult or chaotic situation" in your community where Jesus might be calling you to bring His presence. Take one concrete step toward engaging that situation (volunteer, have a conversation, pray on-site, etc.).

Option 3: Practice Boldness

- Like the freed man who told everyone in the Decapolis about Jesus, commit to telling at least three people this week about something specific God has done in your life recently.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. Jesus intentionally enters into difficult and chaotic situations

- Jesus doesn't avoid the messy places. He deliberately goes where darkness reigns so that God's glory can be seen, His kingdom can grow, and His peace can be established.

2. Jesus leads His disciples into difficult situations too

- We're called to follow Jesus into the chaos around us, not just experience personal recovery and stay comfortable.

3. Not everyone will believe, even when God's power is clearly shown

- The townspeople witnessed an undeniable miracle but chose their pigs over the person. Some will believe; others won't. Our job is faithfulness, not results.

4. Evangelism is simply telling people how much the Lord has done for you

- You don't need a theology degree or special training. Just share your story of what Jesus has done in your life.

CLOSING PRAYER AND THOUGHT

Pray together for:

1. Boldness – That God would give you courage to share your story with others
2. Sensitivity – That the Holy Spirit would show you where Jesus is calling you to go
3. Freedom – For people you know who are bound by darkness, addiction, or spiritual oppression
4. Perspective – That you would value people over comfort, convenience, or "pigs"

Specific Prayer Requests:

(Allow time for group members to share and pray for one another)

Closing Thought

"Jesus knows where your influence is, where your anointing is. It's not a competition. Just go and tell people what the Lord has done for you."