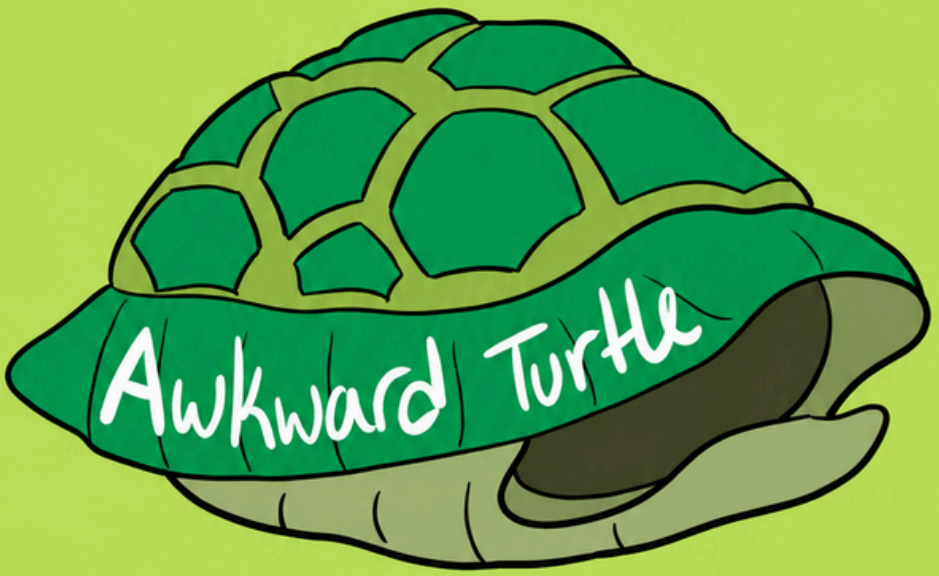


Sharing Your Faith

Know

Mark 5:15-20

- **Jesus and his disciples have crossed the Sea of Galilee into the region of the Gerasenes. The previous chapter ends with Jesus calming a storm, showing his authority over nature. Here, he demonstrates his authority over demons.**
- **Jesus encounters a man possessed by many demons who lives among the tombs. No one can restrain him, even with chains.**
- **The man spends his days and nights crying out and cutting himself with stones.**
- **The demons call themselves "Legion" because there are many of them. They recognize Jesus' authority and beg him to let them enter a nearby herd of pigs.**
- **Jesus gives them permission. The demons enter the pigs, and the herd rushes down a steep bank into the lake and drowns.**
- **The Decapolis means "ten cities." It was a largely Gentile region, where many people were unfamiliar with Israel's God.**

Read

Mark 5:15-20

15 When they came to Jesus, they saw the man
who had been possessed by the legion of
demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right
mind; and they were afraid. 16 Those who had
seen it told the people what had happened to
the demon-possessed man—and told about the
pigs as well. 17 Then the people began to plead
with Jesus to leave their region.

18 As Jesus was getting into the boat, the
man who had been demon-possessed
begged to go with him. 19 Jesus did not let
him, but said, "Go home to your own people
and tell them how much the Lord has done
for you, and how he has had mercy on you."
20 So the man went away and began to tell
in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done
for him. And all the people were amazed.

Ask

Talking about Jesus can feel awkward, especially with people who already know you. In Mark 5:19, Jesus tells the man to go home to his own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for him and how he has shown him mercy. Your testimony gives you a place to begin by explaining how you came to trust Jesus and what he is doing in your life.

- If a friend asked, “Why do you follow Jesus?” what would you tell them?
- How could you explain what Jesus has done for you to someone who doesn’t understand words like “saved,” “grace,” or “testimony”?
- In verse 19, Jesus sends the man home to his own people. What could make sharing your faith with people who know you well both easier and harder?

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2. We can tell someone about Jesus, answer questions, and show them love. We depend on God to work in their heart. That means we have a responsibility to speak faithfully while trusting him with the outcome.

1. We are called to share the gospel, but how responsible are we for whether someone believes?

2. Is God still responsible for the outcome even if we present the gospel poorly?

- 3. When we share the gospel with someone and they don’t believe right away, how should we respond?

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In Mark 5:15, the people see the man who had been possessed sitting there, dressed and in his right mind, and they are afraid. After hearing what happened, they ask Jesus to leave their region. When we share what Jesus has done in our lives, people may respond with curiosity, disagreement, hurt, or mockery.

- Why do you think the people responded with fear in verse 15 and asked Jesus to leave in verse 17?
- If a friend makes fun of you for following Jesus, how could you respond with honesty and respect?
- How might your response change if someone is sincerely asking a hard question or sharing how a Christian hurt them?

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4. In verse 20, the man goes into the Decapolis and begins telling people how much Jesus has done for him.

- Who in your life do you need to share the gospel with?
- What's stopping you?
- What event could you invite someone to that helps them find Jesus?

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Notes

Gospel Sharing Tool

1. Ask Permission

"Can I ask you a spiritual question?"

2. Ask Two Questions

- "What do you think happens after we die?"
- "If God asked, 'Why should I let you into heaven?' what would you say?"

3. Listen

Listen carefully and repeat back what you heard to make sure you understand.

4. Share the Gospel

Use this simple outline:

- God – God loves us and created us to know Him.
- Us – We have all sinned and are separated from God.
- Jesus – Jesus died and rose again to pay for our sins.
- Response – We must repent and trust Jesus as Lord and Savior.

5. Invite

"Where are you at with Jesus?"

6. Follow Up

"Would you like to read the Bible or talk more about this sometime?"

7. Pray

"Can I pray for you or pray with you?”



YOUTH MINISTRY

Sundays
9 AM, *Netcong*
10 AM, *Randolph*
11:15 AM, *Netcong*

Wednesdays
7 PM, *Netcong*

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