



# The Matchless Power of Jesus

1. Re-read v. 2-5. Describe this man before Jesus encounters him. What do you think he looked like? What does he do all day? What do the people in town think about him?
  - a. If God can save him, why are we prone to think of others as “too far gone?”
  - b. And before you object, “I don’t think that way!” Consider, what do our actions toward the lost prove we believe about their possibility of following Jesus?
2. This story is meant to be understood in context, like all of Scripture. It’s no accident that it immediately follows the story of Jesus calming the storm. Now, Jesus calms an internal storm. While you probably don’t have a story like this man does, what are some examples of internal storms Jesus has freed you from?
  - a. (Leader Tip: Consider sharing a story of Jesus freeing you from a harmful thought pattern, or the struggle to forgive – things that are actually sinful but might be impossible to see externally).
3. This story would have been especially difficult for a Jewish person to appreciate. It’s full of unclean things. It takes place in Gentile territory, with a man so demon possessed he’s chained up in a graveyard and cutting himself (death, blood, etc.). Essentially, it’s Jesus saving the worst of the worst from the worst part of town.
  - a. In what ways has God been kind enough to reveal some areas of prejudice in your life? Has he revealed/changed the way you think about people from certain backgrounds, races, income levels, or occupations?

- b. Some have said that Christians shouldn't be talking about prejudice and believe that when we do so we might be "adding to the Gospel." How might you respond to that claim?
4. Re-read v. 16-17. Like the disciples, the townspeople witnessed a miracle – but their response didn't lead to faith, at least not initially.
  - a. Why do you think that is?
  - b. Have you ever experienced the irony of wanting God to show up in your life but then not liking how He chose to do so?
5. Re-read v. 18-20. How did the newly freed man respond when Jesus gave him a different ministry assignment than what he originally wanted to do?
  - a. How does that compare to the way we react when God doesn't say yes to what we initially want?
  - b. What was the ultimate result of this newly freed man's faithfulness? )
6. Let's spend some time practicing what Jesus told this man to do in v. 19. Very simply, let's just start listing one thing after another that tells "how much the Lord has done for [us] and how he had mercy on [us.]"
  - a. Leader Tip: Feel free to introduce this in a time of prayer. People can simply take turns completing sentence prayers, like "God, thank you for \_\_\_\_\_" as a way to list all that v. 19 compels us to recall.

# Family Worship Guide

*You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*  
(Deuteronomy 11:19)



## Why we use this resource...

We believe that parents are the primary disciple-makers in the lives of their children. Part of our mission as a church is to teach people how to follow Jesus. We want to equip parents to disciple their children in following Jesus.

## Where to use this resource...

1

### IN THE CAR

Talk about these things as you are riding in the car going about your life. Be intentional.

2

### AROUND THE TABLE

Try and work some intentional time in the word and prayer during dinner.

3

### INTENTIONAL TIMING

Find ways to be intentional about talking with your family throughout the week about these biblical truths.



### Discuss

Spend time this week talking about biblical truths.



### Pray

Spend time this week praying about how you can live out the biblical truths.



### Live it Out

Spend time this week living out the biblical truths.

## How to use this resource...

The following questions and Bible reading can be done in one sitting or spread out throughout the week. The point is to build upon the sermon you and your family heard on Sunday and reinforce the biblical truths in your hearts and home.

1. This week's focus for our family devotions is on the power of Jesus to change us.
2. As a family, take some time this week to read Mark 5:1-20.
3. Parents—make sure you explain to your children that this man's demon possession is not a normal occurrence today. Explain, too, that Satan is God's enemy who is still very much at work today tempting us, deceiving us, and speaking lies to us.
4. What are some areas of our life that we know isn't pleasing to God?
5. How hard have you tried to change those things in your life that aren't pleasing to God?
6. What does this story teach us about Jesus' power to change us?
7. What are some things you get excited to tell others about? Are we excited to share with others how much Jesus has changed us? What are some ways in which we can do that this week?



### Memory Verse for the Week:

For none of us lives for himself, and no one dies for himself. If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.  
{Romans 14:7-8}

## SINGING TOGETHER

This week, in corporate worship, we sang "Christ Our Hope in Life and Death." Throughout the week, continue singing it as a family. You can find the song here – <https://youtu.be/FvwlwL1FUEg>

