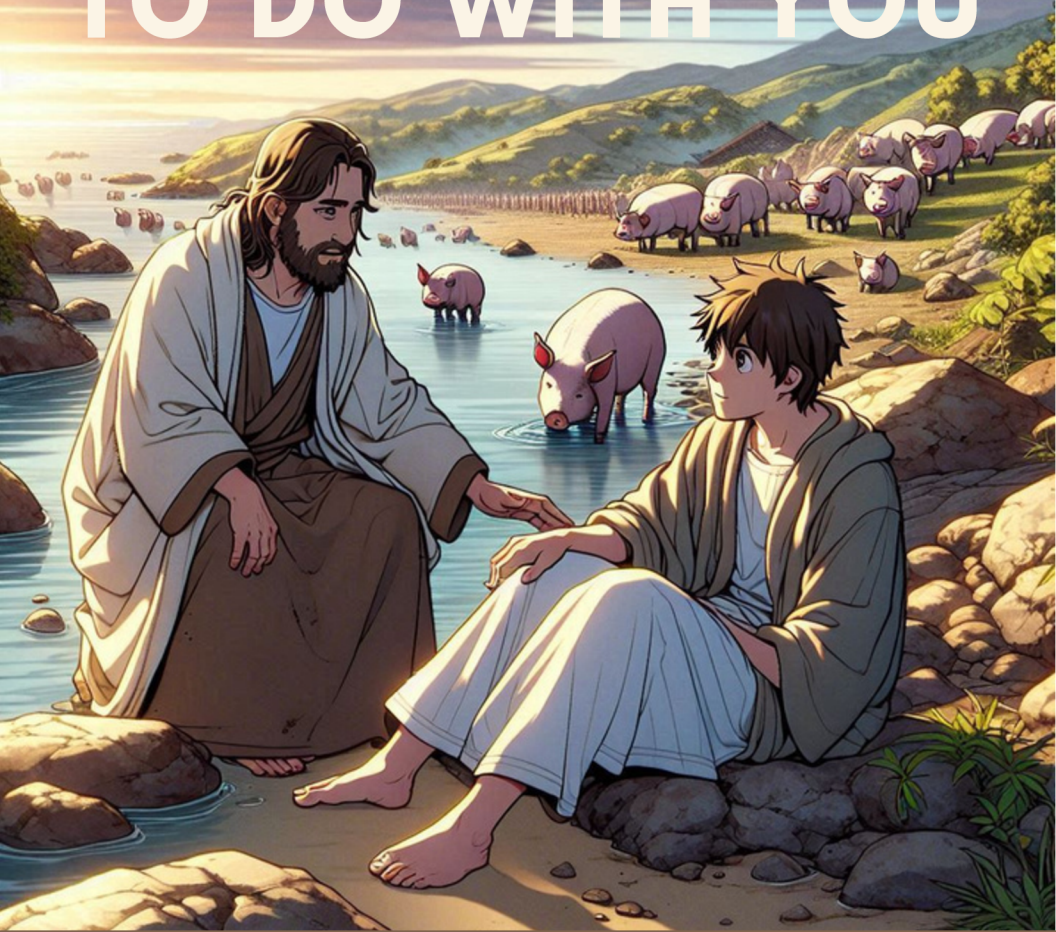




BASED ON MARK 5:1-13

WHEN NO ONE KNOWS WHAT TO DO WITH YOU



A LEGION & THE PIGS
CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE
FOR AGES 14-17

How to Use This Book

Welcome to an adventure where YOU step into one of the Bible's strangest and most shocking stories.

How it works:

- Start at Section 1.
- Read each section carefully.
- At the end of each section, choose what YOU would do.
- Follow the directions to the next section number.
- Keep going until you reach an ending... then try other paths.

Some paths lean into fear, control, and shame. Others lean into surrender, freedom, and following Jesus into a new kind of life.

Tips:

- Read aloud and vote as a group, or use it in pairs/small groups.
- Be sensitive: this story involves demons, self-harm, and community rejection.
- Make space for students who have experience with mental health struggles or spiritual warfare.
- Keep a Bible open to Mark 5:1–20 as you read.

Warning:

This story includes self-harm and spiritual oppression. Make it clear that if anyone is struggling with self-harm, intrusive thoughts, or dark spiritual experiences, they can talk to a trusted adult or leader and seek real-world help. Jesus brings freedom and dignity; He never shames people for suffering.

Among the Tombs

Section 1

You are the man in the region of the Gerasenes. People used to know your name. Now they mostly call you “*the crazy one*,” “*the demon guy*,” “stay away from him.”

You live among the tombs—outside the town, near the graves. You cry out at night. You cut yourself with stones. People have tried to chain you up to protect themselves, but you break the chains. Nobody knows what to do with you. Nobody wants to be near you.

Then, one day, you see a boat land on the shore. A group of men get out. One of them—Jesus—steps forward. Something in you recognizes Him, and something inside you panics.

You run toward Him and fall on your knees. A voice from inside you screams, “*What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? Swear to God that you won’t torture me!*”

Jesus looks at you—not away from you.

He asks, “*What is your name?*”

The voice answers, “*My name is Legion, for we are many.*”

What do you do next?

- If you pull away and run back to the tombs, afraid of what Jesus might do, go to **Section 2**.
- If you stay but resist, clinging to the demons because at least they’re familiar, go to **Section 3**.
- If you surrender, letting Jesus do whatever He wants, go to **Section 4**.

Running Back to the Darkness

Section 2

Fear surges. You think: *“If He’s powerful enough to deal with this, He’s powerful enough to hurt me.”* You bolt. You run back into the tombs. You hide among the rocks and graves.

The voices cheer your retreat. The self-harm goes on. The loneliness deepens. You hear later that Jesus left. The boat is gone.

He came all this way...and you ran.

END 1 – “The Rescue You Refused”

- Sometimes we push away the One who can heal us because we’re more afraid of change than of the pain we already know.

Fighting the Freedom

Section 3

You stay on your knees, but you push back inside. The demons beg Jesus not to send them away. They're terrified of Him.

You feel torn. Part of you wants to be free. Part of you thinks, *“This is who I am now. This is my identity. What's left of me without them?”*

The demons beg, *“Send us into the pigs; let us go into them!”*

There's a huge herd of pigs nearby, feeding on the hillside. You realize: the same spiritual forces that have wrecked you could wreck them.

You feel the tug-of-war in your chest.

What do you do?

- If you cling to the demons, choosing familiar bondage over unknown freedom, go to **Section 5**.
- If you silently agree with Jesus that they should go—even if it costs the herd—go to **Section 4**.

The Transfer

Section 4

You don't have a long, beautiful prayer. You just let go inside. You agree, even wordlessly, with what Jesus is about to do.

Jesus gives the demons permission. Suddenly, they leave you. You feel a violent shift. The voices that have filled your head for so long are yanked out. The weight lifts.

The herd of pigs reacts wildly—rushing down the steep bank into the lake. They drown in the water. It's chaotic, loud, shocking.

The herdsman run off to tell everyone what happened. You sit there, breathing. Quiet. Your mind feels...clear. You notice you're still kneeling where you fell. Jesus' friends bring you clothes. You get dressed. You sit at Jesus' feet.

For the first time in forever, you feel like a person, not a problem.

From here, the story branches based on others' reactions—and yours.

- If you focus mainly on the loss of the pigs and feel guilty, go to **Section 6**.
- If you focus on the freedom you've received and lean into it, go to **Section 7**.

Choosing the Chains

Section 5

You feel Jesus' power. You see the fear in the demons at His presence. And yet...you cling.

You tell yourself: *“This is just who I am. I don’t deserve to be normal. I don’t trust anyone, even Him. I’d rather have familiar torment than risk hope.”*

You resist. In the end, Jesus does not force Himself on you. He leaves. You keep your demons.

You also keep your chains, your cuts, your isolation.

END 2 – “The Identity You Wouldn’t Surrender”

- If you believe your brokenness is your truest identity, you may walk away from the only One who can give you a new name.

Drowning in Guilt

Section 6

You look at the floating pigs in the water and think, “This is my fault. My healing cost them their herd. I don’t deserve this freedom.”

News spreads fast. People from town come out. They see you sitting, dressed, and in your right mind. They also see the pigs.

They’re afraid—of Jesus, of you, of what this power might cost them next.

When they beg Jesus to leave their region, you join their fear. “*Maybe He should go,*” you think. “*Maybe I am too expensive to heal.*”

You stay quiet. You let Him leave without asking for more.

END 3 – “The Freedom You Felt Guilty About”

- Yes, your healing had a visible cost. But the community cared more about money and normal routines than about a human being restored. You believed their verdict instead of Jesus’.

Sitting at His Feet

Section 7

You can't stop noticing the difference: the silence in your mind, the calm in your body, the way your thoughts line up instead of spinning. You're you again.

When the people arrive and see you "*sitting there, dressed and in your right mind,*" they are afraid. They hear what happened to the pigs and beg Jesus to leave.

You don't want Him to go.

As He gets into the boat, you rush forward. "*Let me go with you,*" you plead. "*I want to stay with You.*"

Jesus looks at you with kindness—but His answer surprises you.

"*Go home to your own people,*" He says, "*and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how He has had mercy on you.*"

He asks you to stay. To go back into the same region that chained you and rejected you—and become a witness there.

What do you do?

- If you insist on leaving with Jesus and refuse His assignment, go to **Section 8**.
- If you obey and stay, becoming a messenger in your own region, go to **Section 9**.

Escaping Your Story

Section 8

You shake your head. *“I can’t go back there. They know everything about me. They’ve seen my worst. I want a fresh start somewhere else, with people who don’t know.”*

You push your way toward the boat. But the disciples gently block you. Jesus repeats Himself: *“Go and tell them.”*

In the end, you don’t go home. You drift around the region, half-free but never rooted, always trying to outrun your past instead of letting God redeem it.

People hear rumors of the *“healed man,”* but they rarely see you long enough to connect your story to their own.

END 4 – “The Mission You Ran From”

- Freedom without purpose quickly feels empty. When you refuse to go where Jesus sends you, your story stays smaller than it could be.

Becoming the Story

Section 9

You take a deep breath and watch the boat pull away. You feel the loss—but also a strange excitement. Jesus trusts you with something: your story.

You go back to town. People stare. Some are scared. Some are skeptical. Some are just curious.

You start to tell anyone who will listen how much the Lord has done for you and how He had mercy on you. You don't glamorize your past or glorify the darkness. You tell the truth: how bad it was, and how kind Jesus was.

News spreads through the Decapolis (the ten-city region). Later, when Jesus comes back to this area, people are ready. Crowds bring their sick to Him. They've heard about you.

Your darkest chapter becomes the opening paragraph of many other people's healing.

END 5 – “The Story That Opened the Door”

- You didn't just get free—you became a living invitation for others to come to Jesus too.

All the Endings

Check them off, then read the wisdom that goes with each one.

- **END 1 – “The Rescue You Refused”**
 - Sometimes our biggest fear isn’t demons or darkness—it’s the vulnerability of letting Jesus all the way in.
- **END 2 – “The Identity You Wouldn’t Surrender”**
 - If your pain becomes your entire identity, you may protect it instead of letting God heal it.
- **END 3 – “The Freedom You Felt Guilty About”**
 - Not everyone will celebrate your healing—don’t let their discomfort talk you out of what God has done.
- **END 4 – “The Mission You Ran From”**
 - A fresh start isn’t always a new place; sometimes it’s the same place with a new purpose.
- **END 5 – “The Story That Opened the Door”**
 - Your most painful chapter might become someone else’s first step toward Jesus.

Five Truths You Can Carry

- **TRUTH 1: No one is too far gone for Jesus.**
 - The man with “legion” was exactly the kind of person everyone thought was beyond hope—and Jesus crossed a lake for him.
- **TRUTH 2: Spiritual oppression is real—but so is Jesus’ authority.**
 - Demons recognize Jesus and obey Him. He is not scared of what scares you.
- **TRUTH 3: Healing can disrupt the economy and comfort of others.**
 - The pigs mattered to the town. They valued “normal life” more than one man’s freedom.
- **TRUTH 4: Freedom is not just from something, but for something.**
 - Jesus doesn’t just clean you up; He sends you back into the world as a witness.
- **TRUTH 5: Your story is part of someone else’s miracle.**
 - When you tell what the Lord has done for you, you open a door for others to come to Him.

Discussion Questions

Use these questions after going through at least one path:

1. Which ending did you reach first, and what does it show you about how you tend to respond to Jesus—run, resist, feel guilty, or lean into mission?
2. Where do you see people today being labeled and pushed to the margins like the man among the tombs?
3. How do you react to the pigs drowning? Does it bother you? What does it show about Jesus' priorities vs. the town's priorities?
4. Have you ever felt guilty about good things God did for you—like you didn't deserve it, or it cost others something?
5. What part of the man's change (sitting, dressed, in his right mind) hits you most personally right now—and why?
6. If Jesus asked you to “go home to your own people and tell them what He's done,” where would “home” be for you—family, school, online spaces, friend group?
7. Are there parts of your story you're afraid to share? What might it look like to share wisely and safely, not oversharing but not hiding everything either?

What Are YOUR “Tombs” Moments?

Think about places in your life that feel like tombs—lonely, shame-filled, or where you feel chained to something.

1. **In your mind** (anxious thoughts, dark spirals, intrusive ideas you don't ask for):
2. **In your habits** (things you keep going back to that hurt you, even when you don't want to):
3. **In your relationships** (ways you've been labeled, excluded, or rejected):
4. **In your spiritual life** (fears about God, feeling unworthy, wondering if He really wants you):

Now ask:

- Where might Jesus be stepping onto the shore of my life, not afraid of my “*demons*,” but ready to speak my true name again?

Prayer

Lord God,

Thank You for crossing the water to meet someone everyone else had given up on. Thank You that You are not afraid of my darkness, my confusion, or my worst moments.

Where I feel chained, tormented, or labeled, please step in. Speak Your truth into the places I've believed lies about who I am. Drive out anything that doesn't belong to You—fear, shame, or spiritual attacks.

Help me not to run from You or cling to my old identity. Teach me to sit at Your feet, clothed in Your love and in my right mind. And when You send me back to my own people, give me courage to tell the story of how much You've done for me and how You've had mercy on me.

In Jesus' name, Amen.



Contact

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Step into the story of a man living among the tombs—chained, isolated, and written off as a lost cause—until Jesus crosses a lake just to find him. As the story unfolds, you’ll face choices about running from Jesus, clinging to a broken identity, feeling guilty about grace, or stepping into a new life and a new mission.

Inside, you’ll:

- Walk through a true story of spiritual oppression and freedom
- Explore multiple endings that reveal what happens when you resist, retreat, or respond to Jesus’ authority and mercy
- Discover key truths about labels, mental/spiritual battles and why Jesus values one wounded person

Scripture basis:

Mark 5:1–20

Recommended age:

14–17

“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.”

Mark 5:15

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